DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Kalmadi, top sports administrator, dies at 81

Veteran Cong leader had also served as Union minister

Page 7

Nation

Karur stampede: Vijay to appear for questioning on Jan 12

Sports

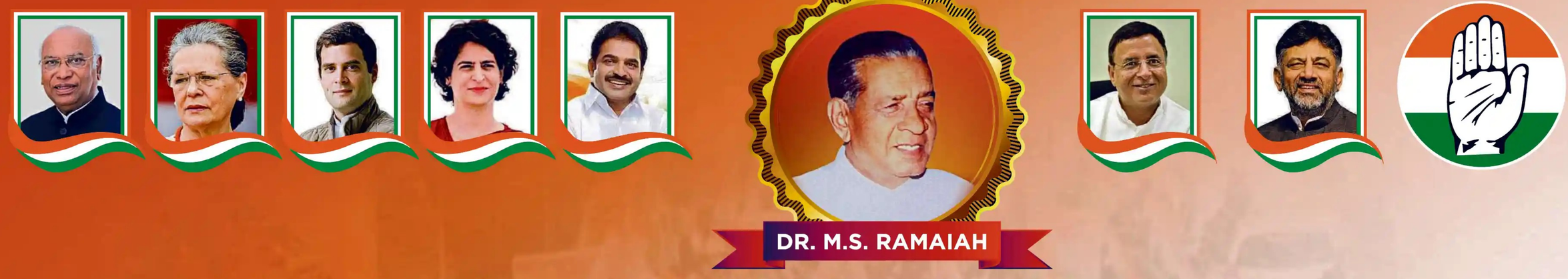
Head, Smith slam tons, Australia take 134-run lead P.13

Nation

ONGC leak: Intensity of flames decreases P.10

Nation

Anti-Modi slogans: JNU seeks FIR



ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಬೆಳಕು - ಶ್ರೀ ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ರವರು
ಆ ಬೆಳಕು ಪ್ರಖರ ಮಾಡಿದ ಸೂರ್ಯ - ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು

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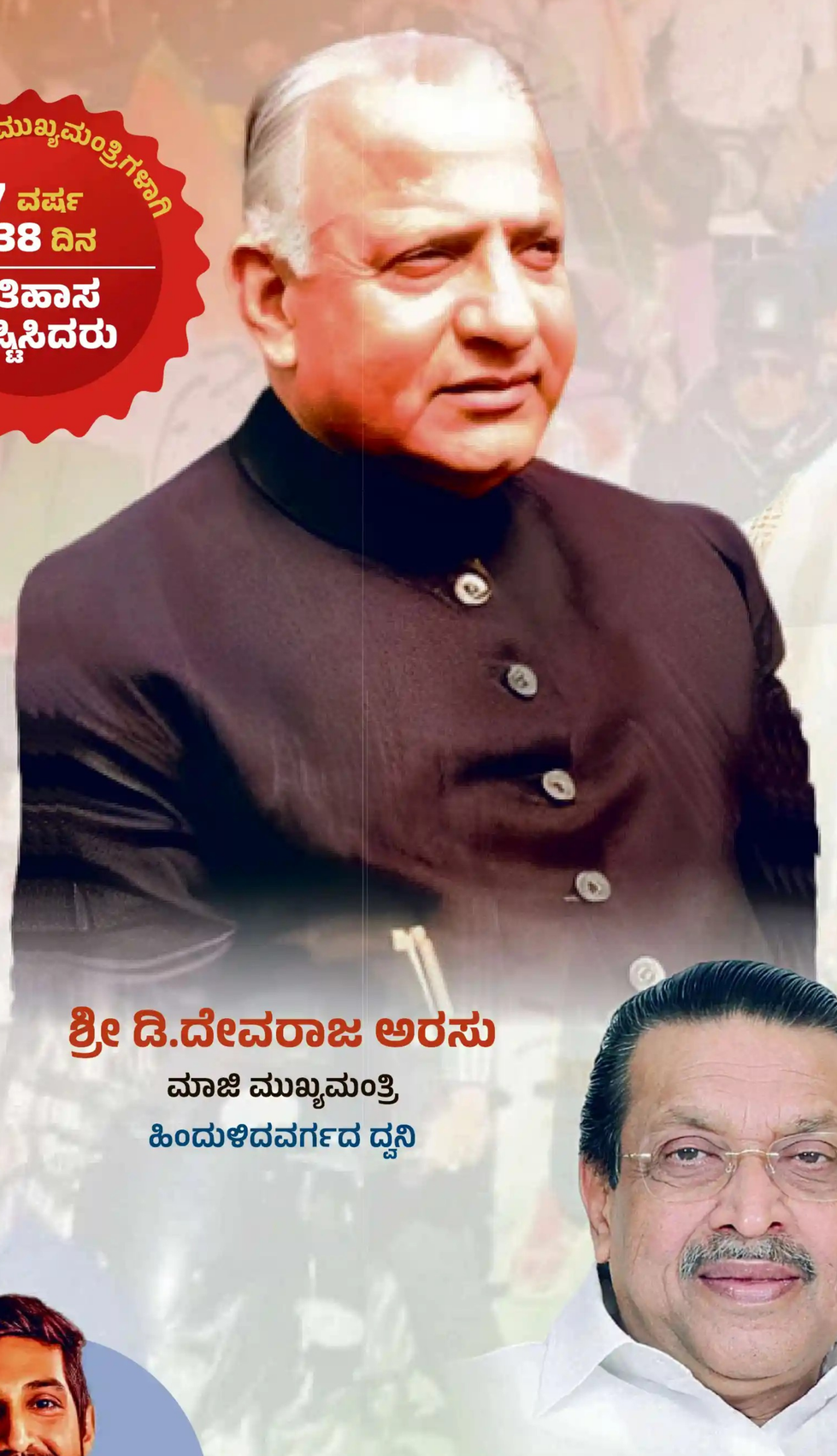

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ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ಸೀತಾರಾಮ್
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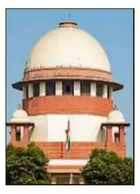
& ಬಿಲ್ಡರ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್

M. S. RAMAIAH
DEVELOPERS & BUILDERS

Wealth alone can't entitle individuals to question validity of law: SC

Dismisses plea by lawyer in AgustaWestland case challenging PMLA provision

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS



The Supreme Court on Tuesday said wealth alone does not entitle individuals to question the validity of a law, as it refused to consider a plea by a lawyer, facing money laundering charges in connection with the AgustaWestland VVIP helicopter deal, challenging validity of a provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

"This is a unique trend now. When the trial is going on, the rich and affluent move this court challenging the vires of legislation. If you are an accused, face the trial like any other ordinary citizen," a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said.

Declining to entertain the plea filed by lawyer Gautam Khaitan, the bench said, "Just because I am rich, I will challenge the validity of the law; this practice must stop."

Appearing for Khaitan, senior advocate Sidharth Luthra submitted that the constitutional validity of Section 44 was in question and required examination by the court.

The bench, however, said it does not approve of affluent accused approaching it to challenge the vires of statutory provisions while criminal trials are ongoing.

The court pointed out that the validity of the provisions of the PMLA is already under consideration in review petitions, which arose out of its judgment in the Vijay Madanlal case.

"It appears to us that the legality of Section 44 shall be examined in the course of those proceedings. We see no reason to entertain a separate writ petition," the bench said.

The court, however, granted liberty to the petitioner to intervene in the ongoing review pleas.

Air quality panel pulled up

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) was "failing in performing its duty" and directed the statutory body to convene a meeting of experts within two weeks and submit a report on the major causes of worsening air pollution in Delhi NCR, reports DHNS.
A bench said the Commission must adopt a graded approach to address deteriorating air quality and clearly identify the factors contributing to it.

So many applications don't even come in cases of humans: Top court on stray dogs case

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday took note of the number of interlocutory applications being filed before it in the stray dogs case and said that so many applications normally don't come even in cases of humans.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta made the observations when two lawyers mentioned the stray dogs matter before it.

One of the lawyers said they have filed an interlocutory application in the case.

"So many applications normally don't even come in cases of humans," Justice Mehta observed. The bench said the stray dogs matter is slated to come up for hearing before the apex court on Wednesday.

When another lawyer mentioned a transfer petition in the matter, the top court said many pleas would be taken up for hearing on Wednesday, and the bench will hear all the lawyers.

A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Nath, Mehta and N V Anjaria is slated to hear the matter on Wednesday.

Taking note of the "alarming rise" in dog bite incidents within institutional areas such as educational institutions, hospitals and railway stations, the apex court on November 7 last year directed forthwith relocation of stray canines to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination.

The bench also said the stray dogs so picked up shall not be released back in the place they were picked up.

It directed the authorities to ensure the removal of all cattle and other stray animals from state highways, national highways and expressways.

Recurrence of dog bite incidents within institutional areas, including sports complexes, reflected not only administrative apathy but also a "systemic failure" to secure these premises, it said.

The top court had passed a slew of directions in the suo motu case over the stray dog matter.

PM Modi 'not that happy with me' over tariffs, says Trump

WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "not that happy with me" because of the tariffs imposed by Washington on Delhi for its purchases of Russian oil.

Trump also claimed that "Prime Minister Modi came to see me, 'Sir, may I see you please'. Yes." "I have a very good relationship with him. He's not that happy with me because you know they're paying a lot of tariffs now because they're not doing the oil, but they are, they've now reduced it very substantially, as you know, from Russia," Trump said.

He also said India told him it has been waiting for five years for the Apache helicopters. "We're changing it. We're changing it. India ordered 68 Apaches," he said.

Grok obscene content row: X asked to submit report today

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has given X additional time till January 7 to submit a detailed Action Taken Report regarding the removal of sexually-explicit content being generated through the misuse of AI-based services like 'Grok' and other tools.

The Ministry decision extended the time following a request from the X, sources in the Ministry said.

On Sunday, X's 'Safety' handle said it will take action against illegal content on its platform, including Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), by removing it, permanently suspending accounts, and working with local governments and law enforcement as necessary.

"Anyone using or prompting Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content," it had said, reiterating Elon Musk's stance on illegal content.

After outrage over the misuse of its Artificial Intelligence tool Grok, the Centre on Friday issued a notice to X Corp (formerly Twitter), and asked it to remove and disable "obscene, nude, indecent and sexually explicit content" from its platform. The ministry also asked the US-based social media firm to submit a detailed action taken report within 72 hours of the directive (effectively by January 5).

CBI summons Vijay over Karur rally stampede

Asks the actor to appear on Jan 12 in Delhi office

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay has been summoned by the CBI to appear at its New Delhi headquarters on January 12 in connection with the stampede at his Karur rally on September 27, 2025, in which 41 people died.

TVK chief Vijay

The summons has the potential to create ripples in Tamil Nadu politics with the Assembly elections scheduled to be held in April-May. Vijay's plunge into politics has already disrupted the landscape, with the actor expected to make a dent in the traditional vote bank of both the Dravidian majors, DMK and AIADMK.

"Yes. We have received summons, asking Vijay to appear before the Investigation Officer (IO) on January 12. We are evaluating the situation and discussing the issue with our lawyers," a source said.

The summons came at a time when the actor's legal team is trying to get the nod from the Central Board of Film Certification for the January 9 release of his cinema swansong, Jana Nayagan. The Madras HC on Tuesday said it will hear the matter on Wednesday after the Bengaluru-based KVN Productions submitted that it was willing to accept the U/A 16+ certificate.

Vijay asked to come to New Delhi for questioning comes amid repeated requests from Tamil Nadu BJP leaders to the actor to join the NDA to "defeat" the DMK regime led by Chief Minister M K Stalin.

While Vijay has maintained that he will contest the 2026 polls independently, his critics say that the actor has been hesitant in criticising the Centre after the Karur episode.

Vijay, who is projecting himself as the prime challenger to the ruling DMK, is likely to cut into the anti-government and anti-DMK votes if he contests alone, and hence the AIADMK-BJP wants his TVK to formally join the NDA to prevent the vote split.

DMK allies have alleged that asking him to come to New Delhi when he can be summoned to the CBI office in Chennai is nothing but a pressure tactic to push him towards the NDA.

JNU vows strict action over slogans on campus against Modi, Shah

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Stating that it stands for peaceful and democratic modes of agitation after a purported video of students, allegedly raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah inside the university campus, went viral, the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration sought an FIR against the students.

The administration said the programme was held to mark six years of the violence that erupted on the campus in 2020, and that after the Umar Khalid verdict, the gathering became agitated.

The JNU administration said it will take 'the strictest action' against students found raising objectionable slogans.

"Universities are centres for innovation and new ideas, and they cannot be permitted to be converted into laboratories of hate. Freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right," it said.

"But any form of violence, unlawful conduct or anti-national activity will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Students involved in this incident will also face disciplinary measures including immediate suspension, expulsion and permanent debarment from the University," it further said.

In a letter to the police, the JNU security wing said the slogans were a 'direct contempt of the Supreme Court'.

"The raising of such slogans is wholly inconsistent with democratic dissent, violates the JNU code of conduct, and has the potential to seriously disturb public order, campus harmony, and the safety and security environment of the university and the nation," the letter said.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
"Rather than uphold journalistic ethics and speak truth to power, a section of the media has resorted to mischaracterising the vigil to deflect from real questions. These attempts at slander are an organised attempt to defame JNU and intensify the persecution of students.

ADITI MISHRA
JNUSU president
"Every year, students hold a protest to condemn the violence that occurred on the campus on January 5, 2020. All of the slogans raised in the protest were ideological and do not attack anyone personally. They were not directed towards anyone.

SHEHZAD POONAWALLA
BJP national spokesperson
"They say that they are saviours of the Constitution and they are running 'mohabbat ki dukan' but they are actually 'nafrat ke bhaijaan (brothers of hatred)'. And, for their vote bank ki dukan, they support this kind of hate-filled language.

Attempt to persecute students: JNUSU

In response, the JNUSU said there was an attempt to persecute students.

"On January 5, armed masked goons invaded the JNU campus and attacked students and teachers in the Sabarmati Hostel ... This was an open assault on a community that was peacefully resisting a massive fee hike," it said.

"The Delhi Police has failed to make a single arrest in the January 5 case," the JNUSU said.

'Will Trump kidnap our PM': Chavan stokes controversy

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Veteran Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan stoked a controversy while speaking about the trade tensions between India and the US. Linking it to the Venezuela crisis, he asked, "Will Trump Sahab kidnap our Prime Minister?"

Prithviraj Chavan

"With a 50% tariff, trade is simply not possible," said Chavan, a former Maharashtra chief minister.

Chavan linked the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in the CIA-backed Delta Force-executed operation with the India-US tariff issue. The 2025 tariffs have been a big diplomatic issue between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

"The high 50% tariff amounts to blocking India–US trade, especially exports from India to the United States. Since a direct ban cannot be imposed, tariffs have been used as a tool to stop trade. India will have to bear this," said Chavan.

"We will have to look for alternative markets, and efforts in that direction are already underway... The question then is: what next?... Will something like what happened in Venezuela happen in India? Will Trump Sahab kidnap our Prime Minister?" he added.

Chavan faced immediate backlash on social media platforms even as the BJP hit out at the former CM.

AIADMK alleges Rs 4L cr graft by DMK, meets Guv

CHENNAI, DHNS: AIADMK on Tuesday alleged that corruption to the tune of Rs 4 lakh crore has taken place in over 20 government departments after Chief Minister M K Stalin assumed office.

Leader of Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami asked Governor R N Ravi to constitute a Special Investigation Commission to conduct a probe.

In a memorandum to Ravi, he alleged that the DMK government functions like a "private corporate syndicate" and submitted "detailed evidence" on corruption in each department.

LAND RECLAMATION

Backhoe loaders being used to clear alleged encroachments and illegally cultivated crops during an eviction drive at the Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), in Assam's Sonitpur district, on Tuesday. PTI

Sonia admitted to hospital for respiratory issues

NEW DELHI, PTI: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here after she suffered respiratory discomfort, sources said on Tuesday.

Sonia Gandhi

At present, she is doing fine, and her condition is "absolutely stable", they said.

The veteran Congress leader has been kept under observation by a chest physician.

It is a routine admission, but she has this problem of chronic cough, and she keeps coming for check-ups, especially with this pollution in the city, a hospital source said, adding that she was admitted on Monday evening.

As tourism revives, jobs return to Pahalgam

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Tourists enjoy pony rides on a snow-covered hill in Sonamarg in Ganderbal district. REUTERS

Months after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack shuttered hotels, guest houses, and eateries across Kashmir, a slow revival of tourism is offering a lifeline to thousands of workers who lost jobs and livelihoods.

For hotel staff, cooks, drivers, and shopkeepers, the first signs of revival occurred in the middle of December after months of uncertainty. "We had no work for eight months," said a former hotel waiter in Pahalgam. "Now the bookings are coming in, and my manager told me I will be recalled next week."

Many hotel employees who had been laid off, including housekeeping staff and guides, are now being asked to return, at least for peak winter weekends and the upcoming spring season. The economic ripple of tourism closures was severe. Small business owners and employees faced mounting debts.

Some proprietors were forced into distress sales of hotels, shops and guest houses to meet financial obligations. "Families dependent on tourism felt the harshest impact," said a hotel manager in Pahalgam.

Tariq Ahmad Khan, president of the Travel Agents Association of North Kashmir, highlighted the cascading effect: "When hotels shut down, the drivers, guides, and restaurant staff are the first to feel the pain. The sector's revival means livelihoods are slowly being restored."

Dildar Ahmad Khan, president of the Pahalgam Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association, said the last week of December offered a glimmer of hope. "Nearly all open hotels and homestays were booked," he said. "We are recalling staff in phases, starting with those who were most affected."

First train powered by hydrogen to run in Haryana

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's first hydrogen-powered train will operate between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana.

The making of a hydrogen-powered train is complete, and it will be commissioned soon, sources in railways said.

A stable and uninterrupted 11 kV power supply has been ensured for the hydrogen plant established in Jind, which will provide fuel for the train for its regular operations.

The hydrogen plant established for this project has a storage capacity of 3,000 kilograms and is now in its final commissioning phase.

Recently, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written statement in the Lok Sabha, had said that the Indian Railways has taken up a state-of-the-art project for running its first hydrogen train on a pilot basis. He had said the planned operation is according to specifications framed by the Research, Design & Standards Organisation (RDSO) to demonstrate the use of hydrogen-powered train technology.

Indian embassy took services of lobbying firm to engage with US

NEW DELHI, PTI: An American lobbying firm hired by the Indian embassy in Washington has disclosed in a public filing that it helped the mission engage with the Trump administration on a range of issues, including the proposed trade deal and the "media coverage" of Operation Sindoor.

'HELPING HAND'
- American firm says it helped Indian mission on trade deal, Op Sindoor
- India says standard practice in the US
- Firm helped embassy in reaching out to US officials on May 10, the day India & Pak ended their conflict

The firm SHW Partners LLC submitted the details to the US Department of Justice (DoJ) under the Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA).

In its reaction, the Indian embassy said it is a standard practice for foreign missions and business organisations in the US to hire the services of lobbyists and consultants.

The filings made by the SHW Partners LLC, available on the FARA website, mentioned assistance rendered to the Indian Mission for the period between April and December 2025.

The details showed the firm helped the embassy in reaching out to four Trump administration officials — White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Ricky Gill (National Security Council) on May 10 — to "discuss media coverage of Operation Sindoor". India and Pakistan had ended their four-day military conflict on that day.

The assistance provided by the firm included arranging meetings, phone calls and emails between Indian and US officials.

"It is a standard practice for embassies, private and business organisations in the USA to hire the services of lobbyists and consultants to augment outreach," the embassy said.

"The Indian embassy has hired such firms, consistent with local practice and requirements under successive governments since the 1950s," it said.

The details also suggested the embassy's request for facilitating a multi-party delegation's meetings with Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

A series of entries was made on assisting the embassy under the theme "discuss status of US-India trade conversations".

A FINAL GIFT

Docs harvest skin, eyes at home to fulfil 91-yr-old's last wish

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A 91-year-old woman's wish to donate her organs was fulfilled when a team of doctors harvested her skin and eyes at her home, after practical difficulties made it impossible to transport her body to a hospital.

She is the second skin donor to the skin bank set up at the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital. It is also believed to be the first instance of skin harvesting being carried out at a donor's home. The harvested skin will be processed and used for grafting on patients suffering from injuries such as burns.

The Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (K-SOTTO) coordinated the transplant process.

Anandavalli Amma passed away at her home in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday night. Her son, Dr Easwar H V, informed the authorities of his mother's wish to donate her organs. As it was not feasible to take the body to the hospital, a team of doctors decided to perform the procedure at her home on Monday.

K-SOTTO Executive Director Dr Noble Gracious said there were several practical challenges in carrying out the procedure outside a hospital environment, including the absence of a surgical bed and the risk of infection. He noted that skin is usually harvested from the back of the body. Although the elderly woman had wished to donate all her organs, only her skin and eyes could be harvested due to age-related limitations.

Bengaluru Wednesday, January 7, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 7 ₹7

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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Trump suggests extended US involvement in Venezuela

Page 11

Ballari violence: HM says postmortem done only once

Page 6

Madurai temple must light the lamp: Madras HC

Upholds single-judge order, blasts DMK govt's fear of 'imaginary ghost'

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Upholding a single-judge order allowing the lighting of the lamp on Deepathoon (stone pillar) atop the Thiruparankundram hills in Madurai, the Madras High Court on Tuesday lambasted the DMK government for failing to implement the verdict and termed as an "imaginary ghost" the apprehension that public peace will be disturbed.

In a detailed 170-page order that began with a verse from The Bible, a division bench of justices G Jayachandran and K K Ramakrishnan directed the Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple administration to light the lamp at the Deepathoon on Karthigai Deepam (which falls between November and December) but disallowed public from participating in the ceremony.

Justice G R Swaminathan had on December 1 allowed lighting of the lamp atop the Deepathoon but the temple management lit the lamp in Uchipillaiyar Temple as per the custom.

Despite the judge initiating contempt proceedings and sending CISF personnel to accompany petitioner Rama Ravikumar to light the lamp on December 3, the state government sent them back saying they will face consequences.

Thiruparankundram hill has been a haven of religious coexistence and communal harmony for centuries, hosting the Subramaniya Swamy temple, Kasi Viswanathan temple and Sikkander Badusha dargah. The government said it did not allow the lamp to be lit atop the hill since it feared there could be damage to the dargah, located 50 metres from the Deepathoon.

'Imaginary ghost'

"We find that the apprehension expressed by the district administration regarding probability of disturbance to the public peace is nothing but an imaginary ghost created by them for their convenience and to put one community against the other community under suspicion and constant mistrust," the judges wrote.

▸ DMK, Page 5A

STINGING REMARKS

- Hard to believe the fear of the mighty state that allowing lighting of the lamp will cause disturbance
- It may happen only if such disturbance is sponsored by the state itself
- It is the duty of the state government to maintain law and order

"We hope, by implementing the directions, there will be only light and not any fight
Madras High Court

- The state should have taken the single judge verdict as an opportunity to bridge differences between the two communities

BJP hails HC order

The BJP on Tuesday welcomed a Madras High Court order upholding a single judge's directive allowing the lighting of a lamp at a stone pillar atop the Thirupparankundram hill in Madurai, and described the DMK, Congress and the opposition 'INDI alliance' as "anti-Hindu" and "anti-Sanatan".

UP draft voter list out; 2.9 cr names removed

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday published the draft electoral rolls for Uttar Pradesh, marking the completion of the first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state.

The names of as many as 2.89 crore voters have been struck off the rolls. The number of voters in the state now stands at 12.55 crore.

UP chief electoral officer Navdeep Rinwa told reporters that objections would be invited and disposed of by February 26.

He said a total of 12,55,56,025 SIR forms were filled and returned. In all, 81.30% voters filled the SIR form while 18.70% of voters did not do so.

As many as 2.17 crore voters have moved elsewhere or were missing or were absent while 46.23 lakh voters were declared dead. Besides that, the names of 25.46 lakh duplicates will also be removed.

Rinwa said the final electoral rolls would be published on March 6.

He said those whose names were not on the list or who wanted to be enrolled as new voters would have to fill Form 6. The objections and claims could be submitted online at voters.eci.in or the ECINET app or with the BLO till February 6.

The draft electoral roll was scheduled to be published on December 31 but the date was later extended.

The maximum number of names (12 lakh) were deleted in Lucknow, followed by Prayagraj (11 lakh) and Kanpur (9 lakh).

Gig workers Act: 1 to 1.5% welfare fee on aggregators?

No clarity if cost will be passed on to customers

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's initiative to provide social security to gig workers is expected to kickstart within a week, with the Labour Department likely to fix a uniform welfare fee of 1-1.5% on a per-transaction basis on aggregator platforms.

"We have discussed with stakeholders, who suggested a welfare fee in the range of 1-1.5%. The notification will be out in a week," Labour Minister Santosh Lad told *DH*.

Once the process starts and the gig workers' welfare board is constituted, these contributions will flow into the gig workers' welfare fund.

According to the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, a welfare fee in the range of 1-5% can be levied on aggregators on per-transaction basis. According to the Act, the government can specify different percentages on the payout (with or without a cap on the gig worker welfare fee on each transaction) for different categories of aggregators or platforms.

However, *DH* has learnt that most of the aggregators have preferred a common welfare fee, prompting the government to opt for a uniform welfare fee.

▸ Gig workers, Page 5A

WELFARE MOVE

- Labour Minister **Santosh Lad** to decide on exact amount in a week

- Contributions to flow into the **gig workers welfare fund**
- Fund will include contributions by **gig workers, grants-in-aid** from the Union and state govts
- **The fee is likely to be uniform for all platforms**

Services sector growth dips to 11-month low

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's services sector growth dipped to an 11-month low in December and business sentiment fell for the third straight month to its lowest level in close to three-and-a-half years, dragged by sluggish demand, according to an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Tuesday.

India's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services fell to 58 in December, from 59.8 recorded in the previous month. This marked the slowest pace of expansion in India's dominant services sector since January 2025.

The PMI print above 50 indicates growth in the sector, while below 50 shows contraction. Despite the slowdown, the PMI level was still indicative of a substantial rise in output.

Details on Page 12

At Rs 93,000 crore, K'taka plans India's biggest Q4 loan

DH SPECIAL

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is likely to borrow Rs 930 billion, or Rs 93,000 crore, from the open market in the final January-March quarter, the highest for any Indian state in this period, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

This means Karnataka will borrow an estimated Rs 31,000 per month this quarter to close the financial year. The state has borrowed a "modest" Rs 120 billion, or Rs 12,000 crore, until December, according to credit rating agency ICRA.

The burden of having to fund the welfare-based 'guarantee' schemes, coupled with infrastructure projects, has pushed up the state's borrowings 160% -- from Rs 44,549 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 1.16 lakh crore that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wants to borrow this fiscal. Money borrowed is used to repay outstanding loans and fund development works.

Details on Page 6

'Hadi killed due to political vendetta'

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, PTI: Student leader Sharif Osman Hadi was killed due to "political vengeance" at the behest of the Awami League, Bangladesh police said on Tuesday.

"Through public rallies and social media, Hadi had strongly criticised the past activities of the now-banned Awami League and Chhatra League. Hadi's remarks angered leaders and activists of Chhatra League and its affiliated groups," Md Shafiqul Islam, Additional Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch, was quoted as saying by a news portal.

Details on Page 11

Protesters target Indians' work permits; another Hindu trader killed, P11

Govt eases norms, up to 6 flats allowed on 60x40 sites

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has relaxed building norms in Bengaluru, allowing property owners to build up to six flats on plots as small as 200 square metres (approximately 40x60 sq ft). A maximum of eight dwelling units can come up on plots which are spread over 360 square metres (3,875 sq ft). What's more, the 30x40 plot – the most common in Bengaluru – can have four kitchens.

These relaxations, which will lead to densification of residential neighbourhoods, have been introduced in the January 5 notification, called the Greater Bengaluru (Amendment) Regulations 2025. While most builders were already violating building regulations in the absence of proper enforcement, the new set of relaxations are expected to legitimise such constructions.

Under the revised rules, plots measuring between 200 sq m and 360 sq m situated across Bengaluru (Ring I, II and III areas) can build apartments with up to six dwelling units. Earlier, such plots were largely restricted to independent or low-intensity residential use comprising not more than four units (kitchens).

For larger plots, the government has allowed more relaxations. In Ring III areas, which are the outskirts, plots above 360 sq m and up to 750 sq m can accommodate apartments with up to eight dwelling units. Where plot size exceeds 750 sq m, there is no upper cap on the number of apartment units.

▸ Flats, Page 5A

Relaxed rules

- Up to eight dwelling units allowed on plots above 360 sq m and up to 750 sq m
- 30x40 plots – which are most common in Bengaluru – can have four kitchens
- On plot size exceeding 750 sq m, there is no upper cap on the number of apartment units
- Road width of nine metres mandatory for development of apartments across all categories

TRUNK LINE

Heritage banyan among 6,868 trees in Metro Ph 3 path

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 6,868 trees will be affected by Namma Metro's Phase 3, according to the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, down from the earlier estimate of 11,137 trees.

Of the affected trees, 65% will be felled, 15% transplanted and 20% pruned. For trees that will be felled, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has promised to transplant 10 saplings of native species at Rs 2,000 apiece.

A heritage banyan tree with a girth of 2,700 cm (88.6 feet) and a canopy that extends across 1,242 sq m — among the city's largest — will also be affected, says another study by Azim Premji University professors Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli.

REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

Phase 3 will have two elevated corridors totalling 44.65 km. Corridor 1 (32.2 km) will run from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura while Corridor 2 (12.45 km) will link Hosahalli to Kadabagere along Magadi Road. Slated for completion in May 2031, Phase 3 will expand Bengaluru's metro network to 222.2 km.

Phase 3 has received all statutory clearances but its construction has been delayed due to revised plans to build a 37.12-km double-decker (metro-cum-road) along the alignment.

BMRCL plans to float tenders later this month, with construction expected to begin in June.

BMRCL has claimed that only trees that obstruct construction would be transplanted, felled or pruned as determined by the Tree Expert Committee (TEC) through on-site verification and deliberation. Trees not designated for cutting will not be damaged during construction, it added.

It has also promised to monitor the survival of transplanted trees and saplings for five years and replace dead transplanted trees or saplings every year.

▸ Trees, Page 5A

JSW PRESENTS
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Rot in BDA at every level, stop acting as a broker: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday urged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to overhaul its functioning and shed its "broker-like" image as the organisation marks its 50th year.

Speaking at the inauguration of a workshop on governance and grievance redressal for BDA employees, Shivakumar said, "The BDA completes 50 years this year. At least now, change the image of the organisation. Eradicate the perception that it acts like a broker."

"I am aware of the rot in the system at every stage, and I also know what is working well. In this backdrop, we have decided to digitise all documents. The organisation is getting a bad name because of around 10% of employees who are corrupt," he said.

Referring to the BDA and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) as the "face of Bengaluru", the Deputy Chief Minister urged officials to adopt a problem-solving approach. "Instead of red-taping files, identify mistakes constructively and find solutions. BDA employees must solve people's problems, not create new ones. Find solutions within the legal framework and do not harass citizens," he said.

Shivakumar said Bengaluru's population had grown to 1.4 crore, even as infrastructure had failed to keep pace.

BTP's traffic fine collection hits decade-high Rs 251.26 crore

Collections jump nearly 300% in 2025 after rebate schemes

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has achieved a milestone by collecting a record Rs 251.26 crore in traffic fines in 2025 — the highest annual collection in over a decade.

The figure marks a nearly 300% jump from Rs 62.82 crore collected in 2024.

Data accessed by *DH* shows a steady upward trend in fine collections over the past 10 years.

Between 2014 and 2016, annual revenue remained largely flat at Rs 65–70 crore. A significant rise was recorded in 2017, when collections touched Rs 112.41 crore following the expanded use of automated enforcement cameras.

Collections continued to grow through the pandemic years, peaking at Rs 185.13 crore in 2023, driven largely by a 50% rebate on pending e-challans.

However, 2024 saw a sharp dip to Rs 62.82 crore — the lowest in recent years — attributed to a shift towards contactless enforcement that de-emphasised recovery of old dues.

Traffic police fine motorists for rule violations during a special drive. DH FILE PHOTO

The sharp rebound in 2025 underscores the impact of targeted policy changes. Official BTP data shows that fines had crossed Rs 225 crore by November, with collections in the final weeks pushing the year-end total to Rs 251.26 crore.

What fuelled the surge?

Several factors contributed to the spike, most notably the reintroduction of 50% rebate windows.

A scheme held between August 23 and September 14 led to the clearance of 3.86 lakh pending cases, generating Rs 106 crore.

Another rebate window in November collected Rs 7.02 crore in just eight days, benefiting over 2.47 lakh motorists.

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said the discount schemes played a key role in encouraging compliance.

"The 50% rebate introduced twice prompted citizens to clear millions of pending cases. Drunk-driving violations alone accounted for over Rs 40 crore, while November collections touched Rs 28 crore," he said.

Enhanced enforcement technology, including AI-enabled cameras and the ASTraM app, also boosted detection and on-the-spot collections.

By October, BTP had already crossed Rs 207.35 crore from 51.8 lakh violators, surpassing all previous records.

The surge also reflects the BTP's renewed focus on major violations such as signal jumping, wrong-side driving and no-parking offences.

With 2026 underway, officials said the department plans to build on the momentum through further technology upgrades and public awareness drives.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Two-day conference on environmental sustainability: Minister Eshwar Khandre to attend; Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Golden Metro Hotel, VV Giri Colony, Seshadripuram; 10.30 am.

State-level women's conference on crimes against women and children: All India Mahila Samskrutika Sanghatane; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Krupa Road; from 11 am onwards.

Inauguration of 'Grameen Angadi': No 07, 11th Main Road, 39th Cross, 4th 'T' Block, opposite Shalini Ground, Jayanagar; from 11.30 am onwards.

CULTURAL

Silver Jubilee performance of 'Maya Dwipa': Kala Kuteera; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 5.30 pm.

Carnatic Classical Music: Palakkad Ramprasad and Troupe; Surabharathi, HRBR Layout; 6.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Sri Sringeri Shankar Mutt: Sadguru Sri Thyagabharma Vaidika Aradhana Kainkaryam and Sngeethotsava; Shankar Mutt Road, Shankarpuram; 8.30 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.6°C
Minimum	16.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	55%
Sunset (Jan 7)	6:07 pm
Sunrise (Jan 8)	6:43 am
Moonrise	9:00 pm
Moonset	9:00 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

GBA unveils Rs 450-cr ORR revamp plan

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Tuesday held a meeting with different departments, including the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), where it presented the Rs 450-crore redevelopment plan for the 17-km tech corridor.

The meeting also discussed the proposal of building an 8-km elevated walkway beneath the metro line on the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Other than ORRCA representatives, senior officials from the traffic police, Namma Metro and different municipal corporations were present.

During the meeting, chaired by GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, the authority presented its plan to develop the ORR, which is home to over six to eight lakh employees. The plan reportedly includes asphalting of roads, redesigning junctions, creating a bus lane, improving footpaths and ensuring a uniform carriageway.

NGO rescues 14 abandoned puppies near Nandi Hills

BENGALURU, DHNS: A city-based non-profit rescued 14 puppies from the foothills of Nandi Hills on Monday. They had been abandoned by an educational institution.

The Friend for Animals Trust reached the location, close to Discovery Village Resort, on Monday afternoon after receiving a video of the puppies along the highway.

"When we reached the location, the pups had all scattered, as there was no place to hide nearby. We spent the whole day searching for the puppies, which were less than 25 days old. We found 13, of which one had met with an accident and injured its leg. We are treating him at our shelter," said Vikash A Bafna, founder of the organisation.

Bafna said the puppies were abandoned by the staff of BGS Polytechnic.

Two held for stealing valuables worth Rs 1.37 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sadashivanagar police arrested two persons on Tuesday for stealing valuables worth Rs 1.37 crore.

The arrested persons, 19-year-old Hazira Begum and her 23-year-old husband Shabbir Hussain, are from Assam.

Police said Begum worked as a house help at the victim's house and, with her husband's help, stole 787.66 grams of gold ornaments, 291 grams of silver ornaments and seven wrist watches, all worth an estimated Rs 1.37 crore.

During the theft, the victim, a businessman, and his family were away to celebrate the new year. Police recovered the stolen goods from the suspects. They were remanded to judicial custody, officials said.

Theft in Vidyaranyapura

In a separate case, the Vidyaranyapura police arrested four people for stealing valuables worth Rs 1.03 crore from the victim's house while he and his family were away in Maharashtra.

Investigations revealed that among the accused were the victim's car driver and two house helpers. Police said they gave the key to two more suspects to steal the valuables. Police recovered 550 grams of gold ornaments, 4 kg of silver items and Rs 4 lakh in cash, and impounded one two-wheeler.

Drugs worth Rs 3.5 crore seized; two peddlers arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Ashok Nagar police have seized drugs worth Rs 3.5 crore, and have arrested two peddlers.

The arrested are Syed Tariq Iqbal, 33, from Chikka Banaswadi and Sheikh Mohammed Arbaz, 29, from Kadugodi. Police said Iqbal worked as a business analyst. Arbaz was a PU dropout.

Police said on December 31, they received a tip-off that attempts were being made to sell narcotics during the new year's bash near Hosur Road.

Police arrested one of the suspects and recovered the drugs hidden near a burial ground. His associate was arrested later. Police recovered 3.2 kg of MDMA crystals and a mobile phone from the duo, and a two-wheeler used in the crime was impounded.

19-year-old kills self after quarrel with her lover

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 19-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide at her lover's house in Pillahalli village near Nelamangala on Monday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Nikhita J, a native of Arasikere in Hassan district.

Police said Nikhita came to Bengaluru on January 1 to meet her lover Raghavendra, 24, a daily wage worker, whom she had befriended through a friend a few years ago. The acquaintance later blossomed into a relationship, and the two had been meeting frequently.

However, a disagreement reportedly arose after Nikhita insisted that Raghavendra marry her on Tuesday, while he asked her to wait for an auspicious time and suggested postponing the marriage by a month.

Upset over the argument, Nikhita is said to have taken the extreme step.

On Monday, Nikhita allegedly called her family members and spoke about her intention to end her life. Before they could intervene, she is said to have died by suicide at Raghavendra's house.

Nikhita's parents have accused Raghavendra of being responsible for her death. He has been taken into custody for questioning, police said.

Siddaramaiah's five guarantees realise anti-poverty vision of Congress

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's administrative mastery is translating to poverty elimination through dignified welfare, malnutrition eradication through assured nutrition and inclusive growth grounded in equity in Karnataka, writes **S R Mehroz Khan**, Vice Chairman, Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, Government of Karnataka

On January 6, 2026, chief minister Siddaramaiah equalled the record of D Devaraj Urs as Karnataka's longest-serving chief minister, marking a historic moment when Congress governance transforms Mahatma Gandhi's vision of serving 'the last man' into Rahul Gandhi's

modern mandate - development must deliver dignity first. This achievement illuminates how Karnataka's five guarantees are achieving what MGNREGA accomplished nationally - lifting crores above the poverty line through systematic welfare that fulfils Constitutional Directive Principles (Articles 38, 39, 46).

Mahatma Gandhi's moral imperative that no citizen should face hunger or indignity found contemporary expression in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra philosophy and his advocacy for equitable resource distribution – 'jitni abadi, utna haq'. Siddaramaiah operationalises both leaders' visions through Karnataka's transformative welfare architecture, building on his 2013 Bhagya schemes to create a comprehensive safety net for AHINDA communities.

Much like MGNREGA revolutionised rural India by guaranteeing employment and lifting millions from poverty, the five guarantees address household-level precarity with precision and scale. Gruha Lakshmi empowers 1.40 crore women through direct cash transfers, fostering financial independence. Anna Bhagya delivers 10 kg rice monthly to 1.50 crore families, decisively reducing malnutrition rates. Gruha Jyoti eliminates energy poverty for 95 per cent of households with free electricity up to 200 units, while Shakti enables 50 per cent of the population's bus journeys annually, boosting female workforce participation. Yuva Nidhi supports four lakh unemployed graduates monthly, preventing distress migration and building human capital.

This integrated approach serves 80 per cent of Karnataka households, achieving measurable poverty reduction - NSSO data confirms a 12 per cent decline in poverty incidence, 15 per cent drop in rural migration, and halved malnutrition rates. The Rs 52,000 crore annual investment

generates 4.50 per cent GSDP multiplier effects through stimulated consumption, proving welfare's economic rationality while fulfilling Directive Principles' mandate for social and economic justice.

Where Dr Manmohan Singh and Smt Sonia Gandhi's UPA institutionalised MGNREGA as a national right to work, Siddaramaiah has created state-level rights to food, energy, mobility, income and opportunity. This model, now prompting BJP's similar promises in poll-bound states despite earlier criticisms, demonstrates Congress welfare as sustainable constitutional entitlement, not transient 'freebies'.

Siddaramaiah's record tenure validates Congress's approach – Mahatma Gandhi provided the moral compass, Rahul Gandhi the philosophical framework and the chief minister the administrative mastery. Karnataka today realises what MGNREGA promised nationally - poverty elimination through dignified welfare, malnutrition eradication through assured nutrition and inclusive growth grounded in equity. This is Directive Principles transformed from constitutional aspiration into tangible reality for the masses.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Four trains to halt at Nayandahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four pairs of trains will now have a halt at Nayandahalli, located in western Bengaluru.

The trains are Mysuru-KSR Bengaluru City Chamundi Express (16215/16216), Mysuru-Bagalkot Basava Express (17307/17308), Thootukudi-Mysuru Express (16235/16236) and Mysuru-Pandharapur Gol Gumbaz Express (16535/16536).

Minister of State for Railways V Somanna said the decision was taken to fulfill a long-pending demand and would significantly improve connectivity and ease daily travel for commuters in the region.

Youth volunteers lead footpath makeover near Ulsoor Lake, boost walkability

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a significant effort for pedestrian rights and civic aesthetics, a group of 20 young volunteers from Beyond 8 school, Koramangala, completed the finale of 'Kartavyam 2025-26' on Tuesday.

Partnering with the citizen group The Ugly Indian (TUI) and the GBA Shivajinagar division, the students transformed a critical stretch of St John's Church Road.

The initiative focused on an arterial road connecting Ulsoor Lake to the Cantonment area, a high-traffic zone bordering army land.

Over two hours, the teenagers repaired footpaths, removed illegal posters and painted walls using TUI's signature "poster repellent" designs. To enhance the greenery, red soil was added to the designated footpath seats.

Footpaths along St John's Church Road.

CONSUMER SURVEY

97% users flag poor food quality on aggregators

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

After gig and platform workers raised concerns about food aggregator and quick delivery service platforms, consumers and restaurant owners are also sharing grievances about dark patterns used by these platforms.

A Local Circles survey found that over 90% of consumers nationwide have faced issues with packaging and food quality; 56% received damaged, spilt or distorted food due to poor handling.

Of the 79,000 responses from 359 Indian districts, 13,020 were from Bengaluru. About 97% of surveyed Bengaluru consumers reported issues including poorly maintained food temperature (30%), unsafe packaging (21%), stale or poor quality food (15%), and other problems with delivered food.

In the past year, 20% of city consumers reported their food was damaged, spilt or distorted by delivery agents at least 5 to 10% of the time.

Consumers also remain concerned about high pricing and hidden charges. Nationally, 55% of consumers found high taxes, delivery charges, and platform fees added to already inflated food prices. In Bengaluru, 51% found online prices higher than restaurant prices. Only 16% found pricing reasonable.

Despite frequent offers on platforms, 39% of city consumers said they could not avail both restaurant and bank discounts on orders.

NIKHIL AGARWAL
Owner, Bamey's chain of restaurants

"If I have introduced a new item on the menu, it is common practice to put out a discount on the item. But after some time, when you want to remove the discount, neither Swiggy nor Zomato will take it down unless the other takes it down first.

Restaurants in dismay

Restaurants often inflate prices on delivery platforms to offset high commissions, usually ranging from 18 to 30%. Despite paying commissions, restaurateurs report losing money due to dark patterns used by aggregator platforms.

"It is a duopoly market, and no one can deny that. While Swiggy and Zomato continue to compete with each other, it is the restaurants that are being fleeced in the middle, and in turn, the consumers are getting affected," said Nikhil Agarwal, owner of Bamey's chain of restaurants.

Sharing an example, he added, "If I have introduced a new item on the menu, it is common practice to put out a discount on the item. But after some time, when you want to remove the discount, neither Swiggy nor Zomato will take it down unless the other takes it down first."

Five of eight restaurants interviewed shared instances of aggregator platforms advertising offers and discount codes without permission. The practice remains common for both chains and small eateries.

The Local Circles survey showed 51% of Bengaluru consumers and 37% nationwide have had at least one experience where the total charged by food aggregator platforms was less than the restaurant bill that came with the food. Multiple restaurants also reported delivery agents switching packaged food with lower quality food midway.

Rs 2.97-cr loan fraud rocks co-op society

Fake property papers used to secure loans; police hunt for duo accused

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Chennammanakere Achukattu police are searching for two persons who allegedly cheated a co-operative society in South Bengaluru of Rs 2.97 crore by using fake property documents, officials said.

The fraud came to light after Poojashree PV, CEO of Surabhi Souharda Credit Co-Operative Society Ltd in Banashankari 3rd Stage, lodged a police complaint on December 24.

The FIR named Niranjan MP and Dharesh S Anchan as suspects.

Poojashree, 37, told police that Niranjan, who stayed near Old Madras Road in Bengaluru, availed a Rs 2.20-crore loan in two parts, of Rs 60 lakh and Rs 1.60 crore in 2022. He submitted documents for two properties: one in Pattanagere and another in Kengeri.

"By using the documents of these two properties, Niranjan filled out the form and received the loan. Anchan, a resident of Kurubarahalli, was named as the surety," the complainant said.

Suspicion arose when Niranjan did not repay the loan.

Co-operative society officials visited the address he had provided and learnt he did not live there. Officials then visited the sub-registrar's office and found that Niranjan had cheated them by submitting colour photocopies of the property documents.

They also found that on April 15, 2016, the documents for the Pattanagere site had already been mortgaged at the Saraswathipuram branch of Bank of Baroda in Mysuru.

"It was also found that fraud cases regarding the Pattanagere property have been registered against Niranjan MP at Bengaluru City's Basavanagudi police station and Bagalagunte police station," the complainant said.

"With the intention of cheating the co-operative society, Niranjan and Dharesh Anchan conspired together, submitted fake colour Xerox documents related to sites that were already mortgaged and obtained a total principal amount of Rs 2,20,00,000 in the form of a loan.

"Including the current interest, the total amount owed is Rs 2,97,00,000 as of December 20, 2025."

The suspects have been booked under BNS sections 316(2) (criminal breach of trust), 318(2) (cheating), 336(2) (forgery), 340(2) (forged document or electronic record and using it as genuine), and 61(2) (criminal conspiracy).

"A search is underway to trace the suspects and further investigation is ongoing," a police investigator said.

Document forgery

With the intention of cheating the co-operative society, the accused – Niranjan MP and Dharesh Anchan – conspired together, submitted fake colour Xerox documents related to sites that were already mortgaged and obtained a total principal amount of Rs 2,20,00,000 in the form of a loan. Including the current interest, the total amount owed is Rs 2,97,00,000 as of December 20, 2025.

Koramangala RPO gets bomb threat; PSKs searched

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Regional Passport Office (RPO) in Koramangala received a bomb threat email on Tuesday morning, prompting security checks by the police and bomb disposal squads.

A senior police officer said the threat email was received at 8.55 am.

Officials who alerted the police stated that the email claimed an improvised explosive device (IED) would be detonated and asked authorities to vacate the premises before 1.55 pm.

Following the alert, teams from the Koramangala, Wilson Garden and Marathahalli police stations, along with the bomb disposal squad, rushed to Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) offices at Marathahalli and Lalbagh Road, besides the Koramangala RPO, and conducted thorough searches.

No suspicious or explosive material was found during the inspection. The police have registered a case and are investigating the source of the threat email, officials said.

ChatGPT response saves retiree from further cyber fraud

BENGALURU, DHNS: A response from the Artificial Intelligence chatbot ChatGPT helped a retiree in Bengaluru avoid losing more money to cybercriminals.

They had already cheated him of Rs 67.10 lakh through a fake investment scam.

The 77-year-old victim from Binnypet told police he was first approached by Yatin Shah, who claimed to be an advisor with IIFL Wealth Management on November 25. Shah told him he would help him get pre-Initial Public Offering (IPO) allotments in sizable quantities.

After signing an agreement, the victim deposited Rs 5 lakh at the scamster's behest. He was told that he had been allotted 150 shares of ICICI Prudential AMC, which indicated a profit of Rs 80,000, the FIR noted. The profit was only on paper, and no real trades were executed.

The victim was then directed to invest in another IPO, but this time, the demand was Rs 23.10 lakh. He made the payment and was allotted 2,24,000 shares at Rs 45 per share, which he said was far beyond his request.

The victim was offered a loan of Rs 36.79 lakh at 13 per cent on the condition that he pays Rs 42 lakh, after he told them he could not pay for the 2.24-lakh allotment. He agreed.

On January 1, he was asked to sell the holding of 2,24,000 shares at Rs 125 per share, which resulted in a profit of approximately Rs 2 crore.

The FIR noted that when he requested to be paid Rs 40 lakh and have the loan amount cleared from the gains, his request was refused.

"This is when the complainant became alarmed and began investigating their background using ChatGPT. The complainant was shocked to discover that this was a fraudulent organisation and had many complaints against it," stated the FIR, that was registered on January 3 at the Cyber Crime Police Station stated.

Banker, techie husband charged with stealing customers' pledged gold

BENGALURU, DHNS

Police have prepared a detailed charge sheet against an assistant bank manager and her techie husband for allegedly stealing gold ornaments worth Rs 5 crore pledged by customers for loans and replacing them with artificial jewellery.

The theft occurred at Karur Vysya Bank's Kengeri Satellite Town branch between June 2024 and October 2025. In all, about 4.95 kg of gold was allegedly stolen.

Ashwini, an assistant manager and loan recovery officer at the branch, is accused of removing gold ornaments pledged for loans and replacing them with artificial or lighter ornaments.

According to the charge sheet prepared by the Kengeri police, she misused her official position and unrestricted access to the bank's gold loan locker to systematically siphon off the pledged jewellery over an extended period.

Police registered an FIR on October 7, 2025, and arrested Ashwini and her husband Ravi, a software engineer employed with a private firm, the following day, said Anitha B Haddannavar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest).

Online gaming addict

Investigations revealed that Ashwini was addicted to online gaming.

To raise money for betting, she allegedly began removing pledged gold from the locker and replacing it with duplicate or lesser-weight ornaments to avoid immediate detection.

She allegedly handed over the stolen gold to her husband, who re-pledged it at other banks and private finance companies to raise funds, a senior police officer said, citing the charge sheet, which is expected to be filed in court soon.

The funds obtained through re-pledging were allegedly spent on online trading and gaming in an attempt to make quick profits. However, mounting losses reportedly pushed the couple to steal more gold to cover earlier liabilities, the charge sheet said.

Detection during audit

The theft came to light during a routine audit on October 6, 2025, when an appraiser detected discrepancies in the weight and quantity of gold stored in the locker. Following this, branch manager Mahesh Chintakayala lodged a complaint with the Kengeri police.

As part of the investigation, police searched the couple's residence in Kengeri and recovered documents related to re-pledging of gold.

Ashwini is said to have confessed to the crime.

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Ref.No.VTU/PS/2025-26/788 Date: 05.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Twenty-Fifth Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU – reg.

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It is hereby informed that **the Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU, is scheduled to be held on Monday, 2nd February 2026, at 11-00 a.m., in the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, "Jnana Sangama" Campus of VTU, Belagavi.** The awardees of the above degree are hereby cordially invited to attend the Convocation.

In this Convocation Ceremony, the Degrees will be awarded only to the Gold Medalists and Rank Holders of 2024-2025 batch of Post Graduate Programmes and to the candidates eligible for the award of Ph.D Degree.

All candidates are required to note the following:

The candidates shall :

* Be present in the Auditorium with neat white dress as mentioned in the University Website
* Occupy the seats in the Auditorium at least half an hour earlier to the commencement of Convocation Ceremony
* Candidates are advised not to attend the Convocation Ceremony if symptoms of fever / cold / cough
* Standup when the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Chancellor and other dignitaries enters the hall and remain so until they occupy the chairs
* Maintain silence and discipline throughout the Ceremony
* Switch off mobile phone in the premises
* Not to leave their position till the dignitaries leaves the hall after the Ceremony is over
* Follow the instructions issued by the Registrar(Evaluation) regarding Registration and other protocols of Convocation

Other candidates, who wish to collect the Degree Certificates personally, can collect the same from the Office of the Registrar (Evaluation) the next working day, on **2nd February 2026**, during the office hours on producing valid identity card issued by the college. The certificates of the rest of the candidates will be sent to the concerned colleges after the Convocation.

By order
(**Dr. Prasad B.Rampure**)
Registrar

ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ.ಪಿ. ನಡ್ಡಾ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ ಕೆ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಾಗೂ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಹಾವೇರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ: ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಘನ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ.ಪಿ. ನಡ್ಡಾ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ರಸಗೊಬ್ಬರ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಪ್ರಹ್ಲಾದ ಜ್ಯೋಷಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳು, ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ವಿತರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊಸ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀಕರಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಇಂಧನ ಖಾತೆ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಮಾನಪ್ಪ ಲಮಾಣಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಸಕರು ಹಾವೇರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜವಳಿ, ಕಬ್ಬು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಸಕ್ಕರೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವ ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವಾನಂದ ಎಸ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ ಮತ್ತು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಾ. ಶರಣ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ ರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಪಾಟೀಲ, ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಶ್ರೀ ರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಮಾನಪ್ಪ ಲಮಾಣಿ ಅವರು ಹಾವೇರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವಾನಂದ ಎಸ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜವಳಿ, ಕಬ್ಬು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಾ. ಶರಣ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಪಾಟೀಲ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ದಿನೇಶ್ ಗುಂಡೂರಾವ್
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಹೊರಟ್ಟಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಹಾವೇರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ದೇವಗಿರಿ–ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ, ಹಾವೇರಿ. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.01.2026, ಬುಧವಾರ, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆ

Are artists wary of religious themes?

The removal of a work at the Kochi Biennale for allegedly hurting religious sentiments has sparked a debate on artistic freedom

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

At the MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road, works with religious imagery is avoided.

The removal of a painting from the ongoing Kochi-Muziris Biennale last week, allegedly for hurting religious sentiments, has reignited the debate on creative freedom and censorship.

While some in the art community in Bengaluru say that exhibiting works with religious themes calls for "careful judgement", others say they do not hold themselves back, and artistic freedom must be sacrosanct.

The recent controversy centres on 'Supper at a Nunnery', a reimagining of 'The Last Supper' featuring 12 nuns and half-naked central figure (of a female dancer). Christian groups in Kochi claimed the painting offended religious sentiments, arguing that it distorted the original image. Tom Vattakuzhy, the Kerala-based artist behind the work, has said it was inspired by a play.

B'luru case

Artist and curator Giridhar Khasnis says institutions often end up prioritising public order over artistic intent. "Curators, on the other hand, rely on experience and judgement, and weigh the artwork for its aesthetics and context," he explains.

He recalls an incident in Bengaluru from over two decades ago when an art gallery withdrew a photography exhibition by a Bengali photographer, following protests from religious groups. The exhibition featured images of Durga idols photographed at different stages, during their creation and after immersion. "Objections arose because some of the images featured figures that were unclothed," he said.

Chosen on quality

At Art Park, exhibition decisions are left entirely to its member committee, with no restrictions on theme. S G Vasudev, artist and founder of the initiative, says, "Works are chosen purely on the quality of the artist and the artwork." He adds that they have not faced opposition to exhibitions on any theme, including religion and mythology.

Suresh Jayaram, founder and director of 1 Shanti Road, says most galleries respond to potentially sensitive works through dialogue rather than outright rejection. "If a work could trigger controversy, the first step is a conversation with the artist to assess whether exhibiting it is necessary," he says. He adds that public galleries tend to be more cautious with religious imagery due to the risk of vandalism.

Some red flags

Artisera, Indiranagar, has not faced challenges so far while representing artists who engage with religious themes. Cofounder Lisa Jain says the gallery has exhibited collaged works of Radha, Krishna and Saraswati, as well as calligraphy works for prayers, without drawing objections. However, she says the gallery remains mindful of red flags, particularly nudity in religious imagery, and exercises discretion to avoid controversy.

The MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road, has often displayed contemporary works with political undertones, but avoids religious imagery. "I prefer works that invite reflection and interpretation, because once sentiments are hurt, the focus shifts away from the art," said Shirley Mathew, art consultant and curator at the gallery.

OTHER INCIDENTS

Legendary painter M F Husain fled India in 2006 after being repeatedly attacked by groups that called for his arrest for hurting religious sentiments with nude depictions of deities such as Saraswati and Durga.

In 2007, an art student from the M S University of Baroda was arrested, and the university's dean was suspended, following protests over allegedly "objectionable" religious paintings.

POPCORN

New Dr No

An MBBS student in Gorakhpur, UP, has set a record by remaining in the first year of his studies for 11 years. He joined the course in 2014 and failed his exams in 2015. He has enjoyed a good time since, staying put at the hostel. He hasn't appeared for subsequent exams or paid any hostel and mess fees. The rules lay down that a student failing the first year needs no fresh admission — he can reappear for his exams simply by filling out a form. He hasn't found the inclination to do that yet, and the college has no clue what to do. So here's one option it can explore — honour him at a graduation ceremony and grandly usher him out. The certificate could read 'MA in entire medical science', the MA standing for master of aaraam.

Cab woes persist at airport

Passengers report long waiting time as increased footfall exposes gaps in the new pickup system at the Bengaluru airport

ASRA MAVAD
TEAM METROLIFE

Flyers are frustrated due to the lack of availability of cabs on the airport premises.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN/ PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Despite the enforcement of the new pick-up rules at both terminals of the Kempegowda International Airport in December, flyers remain frustrated due to the lack of availability of cabs on the premises.

Passengers were left helpless as there was a severe shortage of cabs on Monday evening. According to airport sources, the average footfall at the airport has increased by 10,000 over the past few days, with the daily footfall currently averaging 1,30,000. The increase can be attributed to holidayers returning home after a year-end break.

Shashikanth, a flyer returning from Delhi, had to wait for 40 to 50 minutes before being assigned a cab by Ola. "The staff on the ground kept approaching passengers and issuing OTPs, but the reality was that there were few budget options available. When we questioned the staff, they gave us generic responses," he told *Metrolife*. However, as per an airport representative, the wait time for cabs averaged at 20 minutes on Monday.

Flyers also questioned Bengaluru International Airport's intent behind bringing in the new pickup rules. "The whole point of the new pickup rules was supposedly to make the overall experience smoother for us passengers, but what has transpired is the exact opposite. After an unsuccessful attempt to hail a cab from either Ola or Uber which were only promoting more expensive options, I decided to walk to P4 and book a cab from other aggregator platforms. I was also hopeful that there would be cab drivers already waiting at P4, and I'd hail one of those cabs, but that wasn't the case," shared Nabeela Sheikh, who was able to hail a cab only an hour after exiting the airport.

Passengers also shared similar experiences on the social media platform X, with both Ola and Uber, which are among KIA's eight authorised cab options. KSTDC, QuickRide, Mega Cabs, WTI Cabs and OHM Mobility are among the other cab options available on the ground.

Murari Thakur took to X to report that the Uber staff had forced him to cancel his Sedan booking. He claimed that only Uber XL was available, at more than double the original fare.

POLITICAL PRESSURE

Accompanied by cab drivers, MP K Sudhakar paid a visit to BIAL's office on Tuesday to discuss the pickup rules and the overstay charges.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy is also set to pay a visit today, on January 7. "Some BIAL officials had come to meet me regarding the recently enforced rules that are negatively impacting the livelihood of thousands of cab drivers. On Wednesday, I will be inspecting to see what the situation is like in reality," he told *Metrolife*. The minister is likely to be accompanied by thousands of cab drivers.

EVENTS

Book talk
A dialogue with Harinder Singh on his book 'Guru Gobind Singh: Life, Vision & Wisdom' will be held on January 8, 4 pm at The Chancery Hotel, Lavelle Road, followed by a Q&A session.

Workshop
'I'm Buzzin': A Zine-Making Workshop', conducted by Bazinega, will be held on January 10, between 5 and 7 pm, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. The workshop is open to anyone above 15 years of age. Tickets online.

Musical eve
A performance, part of the Jessie Hill India Tour 2025, will be held at St Joseph's University auditorium, Lalbagh Road, on January 7, 6.30 pm. Entry free.

Comic night
'Late Night Comedy Show' will be held at Tag Comedy Club, Koramangala, on January 7, 9.30 pm. Tickets online.

Indian-made board games score big

A three-day event featured games on migration, street vending, weddings, and birds

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

At a recently held tabletop games expo in Bengaluru, Kiran purchased 15 board games worth Rs 30,000. Four were Indian-themed or developed by Indian studios. The Yelahanka resident chose them deliberately "to support local designers" and because "games are a great way to tell the stories of a country".

His spending reflected a wider trend at TTOX, the expo. Enthusiasts spent an average of Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000, picking up four to five titles each. According to Phalgun Polepalli, who runs the expo with his wife Shwetha Badarinath, Bengaluru has the highest spending power for board games in India. It also has the country's "largest economy" of board game designers, meetups, cafes, and players, alongside game design courses.

The three-day event drew over 1,800 attendees, featured more than 65 indie designers, and showcased over 1,000 games. By comparison, its debut edition in 2024 had 500 visitors and 80 games.

At its sixth and latest edition, only 10% of the showcased games were Indian. While Polepalli says this is small in global terms (smaller countries like South Korea have over 600 homegrown games), it is a "sharp rise" from a few years ago.

He attributes this growth to Gen Z embracing board games for socialising, schools and corporates turning to gamification, and films exploring game adaptations.

Even the themes have expanded beyond war and mythology. 'Kabutar' is a satire on urban migration. In 'Karigar-e-Taj', players have to build the Taj Mahal and win Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's favour. 'Uninvited Guests at a Wedding' revolves around gatecrashing, while 'Birds in the City' focuses on building a bird-friendly Bengaluru.

State grant

Around 75% of the 40-plus titles created by Polepalli and Shwetha's Mozaic Games draw inspiration from Karnataka. In November, the studio even received a grant from the Karnataka government to develop Indian-themed games aimed at capturing the export market.

Tacit Games is also creating board games and puzzles to tell Indian stories to a global audience. In their 'Hampi and the Sun Jewel', players build the historic city tile by tile, while 'Bimba' involves interpreting mystical shapes and landscapes.

Its founder, Kiran Kulkarni, argues that India has always had a board gaming culture, though it was largely confined to homes, festivals, and family gatherings. He says the culture of board game meetups and conventions first took off in the US, and is now taking root in India. However, he adds that games with complex game mechanics still have a limited audience in India, with most players preferring simpler rules.

At Now Boarding Cafe, in Jayanagar and HSR Layout, Indian games themed around food are the top picks — 'Chai Garam', about running a tea stall, and 'Masala Lab' that focuses on preparing and serving meals, to fulfilling food orders.

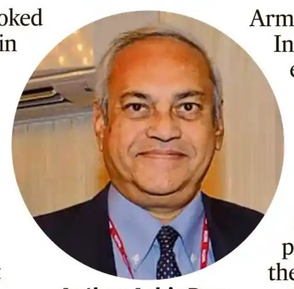
Its owner Avikant Bhardwaj also lauds 'Tycoon', which is themed on nation building in post-colonial India, and 'Nayakas', set after the fall of the Vijayanagara empire. He feels these Indian titles are as good as "Western heavyweights".

Player preferences are evolving too. While board game manufacturer Prajwal Manuvacharya has seen Indian audiences favour large-group games that finish quickly, the expo saw a strong interest in two-player formats.

Polepalli says that the lack of publishers and distribution channels are the only major bottleneck in India's board gaming scene. Echoing this, Manuvacharya says, "Since 2024, I have been making board games in small batches of 15 to 500 copies for Bengalureans who wish to share them within their close circles."

Many games were play-tested at the expo, covering subjects like military conquests, arranged marriages, floral rangoli, and how to have fun in one's 30s.

Book discussion on role of INA trials in Indian independence


Author Ashis Ray

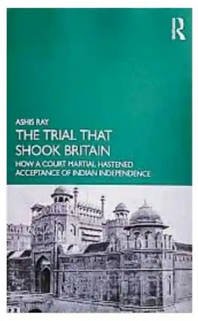
An overlooked chapter in Indian history, often relegated to a footnote or a few pages, is what revived the Indian freedom movement in 1945. It is this episode that author Ashis Ray explores in his latest book, 'The Trial That Shook Britain — How A Court Martial Hastened Acceptance of Indian Independence'.

From 1939 to 1945, the Indian freedom movement had virtually come to a standstill, Ray notes. In 1945, after the end of World War II, public anger grew when they learnt of the efforts of the Indian National Army to liberate India. It exploded when three officers who had defected from the British-commanded Indian Army were put on trial at the Red Fort.

The book offers a blow-by-blow account of the trial, the arguments presented and its repercussions.

London-based Ray will be in Bengaluru on Thursday to discuss the book.

January 8, 6.30 pm. At Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. For details, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org



The book examines an overlooked chapter in Indian history.

Quiz, skit part of cervical cancer awareness event on Jan 20

The Indian Cancer Society is holding a series of drives in January, observed as Cervical Cancer Awareness month

TEAM METROLIFE

A breast, oral and cervical cancer screening conducted by the Indian Cancer Society in Yeshwantpur in December 2025.

The Indian Cancer Society (ICS) is holding a number of drives all through January to spread awareness about cervical cancer. January is observed as Cervical Cancer Awareness month.

According to data, India reported 1,27,526 new cervical cancer cases in 2022, contributing to 17.7% of overall cancer cases in the country. "While cervical cancer is largely preventable, India continues to report a high burden of cases," says Kanchan Banerjee of ICS.

What to expect

The Cervical Health Awareness Open Forum will be held on January 20 in partnership with the Rotary Club of Bangalore at the Rotary House of Friendship on Lavelle Road. The event will include a quiz competition on the topic, in addition to a skit on the myths surrounding the disease, put together by medical students. Two survivors and two vaccinated individuals will also share their stories.

In other parts of Karnataka, the ICS will screen 200 women from high-risk groups (in Gadag), provide informative flipcharts to ASHA workers to distribute among women in areas where they work (Kalaburagi) and screen 1,500 women from marginalised communities with limited access to healthcare (across multiple districts).

Cervical cancer prevention is both effective and achievable, says Dr Sundari Nandyala, a gynaecologist. One can prevent the disease by getting regular HPV vaccinations from ages 11-20. To detect it early, it is recommended that women 25 and above undergo HPV DNA screenings once in 5 to 10 years, and pap smears once in three years. "While the vaccination can be taken even after age 20, it is most effective when taken earlier," she explains.

ICS, which completes 75 years in 2026, was started in Mumbai by Dr Jussawala and Naval Tata. Last year, the Society screened 10,726 women for cervical cancer in Karnataka alone.

Apart from their work with cervical cancer, the Society also conducts community-based cancer awareness programmes on other preventable cancers, detection camps for cervical, breast and oral cancers and counselling sessions for patients. Additionally, they also help patients navigate the process of treatment, provide anti-tobacco education, train frontline health workers and educators, offer financial support and assist with nutritional planning post treatment.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thanks giving for the favour and blessings seeking your blessings always
- Mr. Jeenus & Mrs. Dhrishya Jeenus

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CITY MIX

Thyagaraja music festival from today

A festival beginning Wednesday honours saint-composer Thyagaraja with a series of concerts.

Titled Sadguru Sri Thyagabrahma Vaidika Aradhana Kainkaryam, it is organised by the Sadguru Sri Thyagabrahma Aradhana Kainkarya Trust, between January 7 and 11. The festival features nearly 300 classical musicians from Karnataka and other states. A key highlight is the group singing of the composer's Pancharatna kritis on January 7, 8.30 am. Over 1,000 musicians will sing Thyagaraja compositions in chorus. *The evening concerts begin at 5 pm at Sri Sringeri Shankara Matha, Chamarajapet. Entry free.*

STP that uses gravity to function unveiled at EMPRI

BENGALURU, DHNS

A sewage treatment plant (STP) that doesn't require electricity, and can function without maintenance for two years was unveiled at the Environment Management Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The STP, which can treat up to 10,000 litres per day, has four-stage operating process, which exploits gravity to transform sewage into secondary treated water. The only limitation of the technology, however, is the requirement of space.

The sludge is removed in the sedimentation filters in the first two stages and the water is then forced to pass through filter mass with bacteria. In the fourth stage, the water passes through wetland where vascular plants and algal colonies will remove the excess nutrients. Maintenance of the STP predominantly entails clearing the sludge once every two years.

ECOSTP technologies, one of the six grantees under the design impact awards by Titan, received a Rs 50 lakh grant to pilot a high-impact scalable solution. The STP at EMPRI is seen as a 'no moving part' STP powered by proprietary Rumen Baffle Vein technology.

Tharun Kumar, founder of ECOSTP, noted that the STP demonstrates that sewage can be treated without using power, chemicals or skilled operators. "Conventional STPs depend on 24/7 blower systems and chemical additives, making them inherently unsustainable," he said.

Principal Secretary of Environment Department Srinivasulu, who unveiled the STP, noted that the only requirement of the nature-based STP was space. He, however, urged industries to invest in research that improves life of people.

Around 3,000 sudden deaths reported per year in Bengaluru

Numbers reflect cases reported to the police

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the scare that sudden deaths due to heart attack have increased post Covid, data from the Bengaluru City Police showed that on an average close to 3,000 sudden deaths are reported annually from Bengaluru since 2022.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a sudden death is said to be "unexpected death that is instantaneous or occurs within minutes from any cause other than violence. For example heart attack, brain hemorrhage, and others."

Senior officials from the Police department said that most of these deaths were due to heart attacks.

"Sudden death is recorded when a person collapses and dies without any illness or symptoms. In such cases, a Unnatural Death Report (UDR) will be registered and postmortem will be done. Generally, such incidents occur due to heart issues," said Seemant Kumar Singh, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner.

While these numbers only reflect the deaths that have happened in public places and reported to the Police, sources said that the number of such sudden deaths could be much higher.

Six months ago, many videos of people collapsing suddenly and losing life to heart attack had gone viral. However, the health department has then said that heart attacks would be declared as notifiable disease and this would help keep a track of the number of cases.

Six months ago, many videos of people collapsing suddenly and losing life to heart attack had gone viral.

"While cardiac events are common, we also see sudden fatalities linked to massive strokes, ruptured blood vessels such as aortic aneurysms, severe infections like sepsis, blood clots in the lungs, uncontrolled asthma attacks, serious allergic reactions, poisoning, electrolyte disturbances, and undiagnosed genetic or rhythm-related heart conditions," said Dr Rajiv Jain, HOD and Consultant - Emergency Medicine at a well-known hospital in Kengeri.

Doctors advised that following healthy lifestyle and awareness of basic life support, prompt ambulance calls, and getting to the hospital without delay can make the difference between life and death.

"Many sudden deaths are preventable and early recognition, preparedness, and preventive care remain our strongest tools," Dr Jain said.

Deaths in last four years

- 2022: 2,850
- 2023: 2,979
- 2024: 2,962
- 2025: Approx 3,200

Six months on, order on notifiable disease awaited

BENGALURU, DHNS: In early 2025, many citizens started expressing concerns over increase in heart attacks after videos of people suddenly collapsing owing to the heart attacks surfaced.

The health department then formed a committee which examined the heart attack case trends at various branches of the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences.

However, the report did not show any drastic increase in heart attack cases.

To keep track of the number of heart attacks occurring in the state, the health department then announced that such cases would be declared as notifiable disease and that all such cases of sudden heart attacks are to be notified to the health department.

However, almost six months since the announcement, the order is yet to be passed.

Senior officials said that the department was planning to strengthen the system of Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD).

"To ensure that all the heart attack deaths are duly reported, we need to strengthen MCCD to allow all the causes of the death to reach the health department. We are working on a new procedure and the improvements that will have to be made to the system are also being reviewed. Once the MCCD is strengthened, not just the heart attacks, but also all the causes of death will be clearly recorded," a senior official from the health department told DH.

Penang keen to be part of K'taka's quantum action plan

BENGALURU, DHNS: A delegation from Penang, Malaysia, on a visit to Bengaluru, has expressed a strong inclination to partner with the Karnataka government for the development of quantum technology, said N S Boseraju, Minister for Science and Technology.

The delegation, led by Deputy Chief Minister Jagdeep Singh Deo, called on the minister at the Vikasa Soudha on Tuesday.

"Although Penang is geographically a small state, it has grown into a global power in the semiconductor sector. The primary reason for this success is our robust industry-research collaboration, in which Penang University has been instrumental," Deo said.

He explained how the university played a pivotal role in building a research ecosystem that directly supports the industry, a model he suggested expanding between the two states.

Both leaders said, while Bengaluru is at the forefront of the electronics sector, Penang is witnessing rapid growth in the semiconductor industry. They agreed that the synergy between these two domains would create immense opportunities for both regions.

The Penang delegation commended the government's initiative to nurture quantum technology and promote scientific temper among the youth.

The delegation expressed interest in becoming a part of Karnataka's 'quantum action plan'.

Welcoming this proposal, Boseraju said, "Our government is open to collaboration with Penang, often referred to as the 'Silicon Valley of the East'. This partnership will be complementary to the technological growth of both regions".

The ministers are currently working on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for human resource development.

Department of IT/BT, and Science & Technology secretary Dr N Manjula, K-STEPS managing director Sadashiva Prabhu and officials from the Penang state government were present.

Stop termination of 1K HAL workers, CITU urges Centre

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Communist Party of India (Marxist)-backed Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) has sought Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's intervention to stop Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) move to terminate around 1,050 workmen and replace them with another set of workers.

Elamaram Kareem, the newly elected CITU general secretary, wrote a letter to Singh stating that HAL's move to terminate the services of workmen hired on a tenure-based basis was "illegal, unfair, constitutes a gross unfair practice, violative of fundamental rights and directive principles of the constitution."

He recalled that a 'Scheme for Engagement of Personnel on Tenure Basis', instead of permanent workmen in its non-executive cadre in Bengaluru, was introduced in 2015 in "utter defiance" of HAL's own certified standing orders.

"In the process, the HAL started recruiting a large number of unemployed youths exploiting their situations in this so-called tenure-based employment," he said, adding there are around 1,050 such employees at present, recruited since 2016.

Services extended

"These workmen have toiled and laboured alongside permanent workmen, performing identical technical tasks of a permanent nature, often on the same projects and machinery. Their services were also extended periodically, with many having rendered continuous service for eight to ten years, often without job security or basic rights. Their work has been an integral part of the HAL," he said.

On December 9 last year, Kareem said, the HAL management had indicated that the existing workmen who are termed as tenure-based are to be replaced with another set of tenure-based employees, which is "impermissible" under law.

Another circular three days later was issued to terminate these workmen, he said, adding that there is no justification to terminate these workmen, as such, there is a huge manpower shortage at the HAL.

"Based on these circulars, many of these workmen have been served notice of termination, threatening the very survival of hundreds of workmen and their families... This action of HAL is illegal, unfair, constitutes a gross unfair labour practice, violative of the fundamental rights under Articles 14, 16, 21, and 23 of the Constitution, and makes a mockery of the directive principles of state policy and also violates the principles laid down by the Supreme Court in Jaggo Vs Union of India," Kareem said.

He sought the minister's intervention to rescind this "illegal termination" of services to uphold justice, the rule of law, and the dignity of labour in a premier national defence enterprise.

"We trust that your good office will act swiftly to rectify this serious anomaly and uphold the principles of fair justice and ensure that the HAL acts as a model employer," he added.

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Awareness drive on VB G RAM G from Jan 15, says BYV

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday announced that the state unit would conduct an awareness programme from January 15 to February 28 about the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB G RAM G Act), which replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Addressing reporters, Vijayendra said: "This will be held at the district level and also at the taluk level (Assembly constituencies). We will go to all villages as well and conduct the awareness programme."

He noted that a committee had been formed under the leadership of BJP State Secretary P Rajeev. The committee also comprises Udupi-Chikmagalur MP Kota Srinivasa Poojari, Iranna Kadadi and so on.

Vijayendra said programmes would be held at the district and taluk levels too, where similar committees are expected to be formed.

He said the BJP condemned the Congress for spreading "misinformation" about the new Act.

Speaking about the decision to change Mahatma Gandhi's name, he said: "It could be Mahatma Gandhi or Babasaheb Ambedkar, good things are happening in their name. There has been no disrespect to them."

Defending the VB G RAM G Act, Chitradurga MP Govind Karjol said the guarantee of 100 days of employment provided by MGNREGA had been increased to 125 days under the present Act.

He also flayed the argument of the opposition that the local bodies had been undermined.

"Earlier, the gram panchayats were implementing the scheme. Even now, they will only do it. There's no difference."

NREGA allowed to die slow death, G RAM G no succour: Workers

Activists cite massive deletions of cards

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the Congress and BJP in the state spar over the Centre's new rural employment Act - VB G RAM G - workers on the ground, social activists and legal experts have demanded that VB G RAM G be scrapped and the UPA-era MGNREGA be restored to 'safeguard people's right to work'.

The workers fear massive exclusion of workers from the scheme and poor wages. This is because the gram panchayats will lose power to decide on the projects (asset creation) as central allocations will decide fate of projects and wages.

They suspect MGNREGA was deliberately allowed to die a slow death, citing corruption and lack of accountability.

A close look at the scheme's progress in Karnataka confirms their fear. MGNREGA in Karnataka has seen a decline in the number of beneficiaries availing the scheme.

There are 17.9 crore registered workers. However, as on date, only 71 lakh are active. Of the 81.09 lakh registered job cards, only 41.06 lakh cards were active in 2024-25.

Likewise, the approved budget for labour alone decreased from Rs 16 crore to Rs 9 crore in 5 years.

Mahantesh Hunagund, an MGNREGA worker from Raichur, said, "Glitches in technology - digital attendance and Aadhaar-based payments system - led to workers' exclusion."

MGNREGA in Karnataka has seen a decline in the number of beneficiaries availing the scheme.
DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

RAJENDRA NARAYANAN
Faculty, Azim Premji University

"In 2024-25, the state government spent Rs 573 crore under MGNREGA for a total person days of 13.12 crore across 29.11 lakh job cards (households). Under the new Act, the state will end up spending Rs 2,729 crore for the same amount of work, with altered cost-sharing ratio. Also, it will cost the state Rs 7,573 crore to generate work for 125 days. This will affect allocations for major health and welfare schemes."

Aadhaar linking

Rajendra Narayanan, faculty, Azim Premji University, said, "In 2022, officials were under pressure to complete Aadhaar linking within tight deadlines, which resulted in massive deletion of MGNREGA job cards as seasonal migrations kept workers out of reach. At least two thirds of all deletions mentioned the reason as 'worker not willing to work now."

'No curb on graft'

"The NDA government is not keen on weeding out corruption. The MGNREGA Council (comprising civil society and government officials), meant for giving feedback on projects, has not held a single meeting in the last 10 years. Also, social audit allocations to states have reduced," said Narayanan.

Suvarna Kuthale, activist, Jagrutha Mahila Okkoota, Khanapur (Belagavi district), said, "It is the officials who are corrupt, not workers."

In the new legislation, enhancing workdays from 100 to 125 is a sham, feel activists.

Tiger rescued

MYSURU, DHNS: The Forest department personnel rescued a male tiger, around six to seven years old, at Hemmige in Hanagod hobli of Hunsur taluk, Mysuru district, on Monday night.

Following the complaints of tiger sightings, the forest department personnel had placed a cage in the farmland of Siddegowda of the village. They were successful in trapping the big cat in the cage. The health condition of the tiger is good and has been shifted to Bannergatta National Park, according to Hunsur division ACF N Lakshmikanth.

4 killed as MUV hits electricity pole

CHIKKAJAJUR (CHITRADURGA DISTRICT), DHNS: Four persons died after the multi-utility vehicle they were travelling in crashed into an electricity pole at Andanur near here on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Giriraj (46), Kiran (25), Arun and Hanumantha (both 32). Another four passengers in the vehicle sustained injuries. The accident occured as the driver lost control over the vehicle. A case has been registered.

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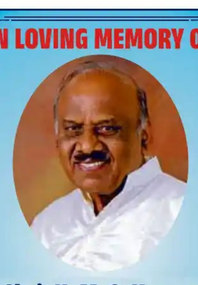

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Kiran-9448484247
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AI-based cameras to monitor packing of products at KMF

System to enhance transparency, accuracy, automation

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has decided to use AI-based cameras to monitor and keep a count of the crates of milk and milk products packed.

The move is aimed at helping improve efficiency and transparency in packaging.

The Federation recently floated a tender seeking such services and according to the tender document, the AI-based system is expected to 'enhance transparency, accuracy, and automation in crate management'.

"Due to the high volume of operations, accurate tracking and monitoring of milk crates and milk product crates at various stages of packing, loading, unloading, and dispatch is critical for operational efficiency, loss prevention, and inventory control," the document accessed by *DH* said.

The system will be introduced at three major packing stations under Bengaluru Co-operative Milk Producers' Societies Union Limited (BAMUL) where the volume of milk and other products packed is high.

While eight cameras will be installed at the main packaging centre in Bengaluru, two cameras will be installed at the National Milk Packing Centre (NMPC) in Kanakapura and the packaging centre in Hoskote.

According to senior KMF officials, the system is being planned to bring down manual intervention in the counting of crates, as the new system will automatically detect, count, and record milk and milk product crates in real time.

"This will also bring down human errors and provide reliable data for reconciliation and audit purposes," the official said.

According to KMF, the solution will include real-time live video stream–based analytics for continuous tracking and monitoring of crates and packets on conveyors. The new system will include a live crate counter display for every conveyor, along with configurable audio alerts for operational notifications.

"The system must provide a comprehensive alerting mechanism to detect and notify count anomalies, area-based anomalies, inactive conveyor conditions, and human interference events," the tender document said.

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PERSONAL
Change of Name
I, DHIRAJ KUMAR. R/a, #.70/1 Surveyor Street Basavanagudi Bengaluru 560004. Have Changed my Name To DHIRAJ KUMAR JAIN Vide Affidavit Dated 06/01/2026 before Notary Mamatha N.K Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, M.Vanilatha alias Setty Balija Geethavani W/o Settybalija Madhu Babu aged 40 Years Residing at D.No 46-2-737, Flat No 404, Dheeraj Enclave, Sapathagiri Nagar, near Ayyappa Swamy Temple, Kurnool City Mandal and District the above names pertain to ME only. vide affidavit dated 15.05.2025 before notary J.Shivaramaiah Proddatur - 516360

CHANGE OF NAME
We, Sukruth A N and Supriya N S, residing at No. 62/1, 15A Cross, 6th Main, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560055, have changed our minor daughter's name from SHREYANVI to SHREYANVI IYENGAR vide affidavit dated 15-11-2025 before notary K.S. Giridhar, Bengaluru. Henceforth she shall be called SHREYANVI IYENGAR only

I, SRIVIDYA BHOOPALAM RAMASWAMY. R/a, #.54/1-1,13TH CROSS MALLESHWARAM Bengaluru-560003 Have Changed my Name To SRIVIDYA RAJANAHALLI RAVINDRANATH Vide Affidavit Dated 06/01/2026 before Notary Mamatha N.K Bangalore.

I, KHADER Raheem Sajeedha Beagm W/o Ismail Khan. K R, aged about 70 Years, Resident of #882,new #157/2, Opp Elahi Masjid, Noor Nagar, Kolar 563101. Have changed my name to Sajida Begum vide affidavit dated 03.01.2026 before Notary H Krishne Gowda Kolar. Henceforth I shall be called as Sajida Begum Only.

I, M_FATHIMA W/o.Rasul Chan Bhasha. R/a #62 Bayapalli Village Thimmasandra Post Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar`District 563135 have.changed my`Name to FATHIMA vide`affidavit Dated:03.01.2026 before`Notary S.Subashini, Bangalore.

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Visionary and man of the masses continues his march to progress

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I never thought I would become the Chief Minister. I wanted to be an MLA. But, the blessings of the people have brought me this far.

Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah, who is leading the government in the State, has set a historical record. He broke Sri D Devaraj Urs' record of 'longest serving chief minister' in the State. He now stands tall as the longest serving chief minister of Karnataka.

Sri D Devaraja Urs was at the helm of the State's administration as chief minister for a total of seven years and 239 days between 1972 and 1977 and 1978 and 1980. This tenure was a record in State politics. Now, Sri Siddaramaiah has surpassed this record and continues as chief minister.

Sri Siddaramaiah, who was sworn in as the chief minister for the first time in 2013, governed effectively for a full term of five years. He has been successfully leading the administrative machinery of the State since 2023. He is notching his record on the pages of history by surpassing the previous record of seven years and 239 days today.

Sri Siddaramaiah, who earned the reputation of 'Bhagyagala Sardar' across the State through various pro-people schemes including 'Annabhagya' and 'Ksheerabhagya', won the trust of all the MLAs, ministers and officials, and inspired everyone through his leadership. With his leadership qualities, knowledge of finance that helped in formulating a Budget supporting the development of the State, his positive response to the problems of the people, and his excellent rhetoric in facing challenges effectively, Sri Siddaramaiah earned the title of being a 'mass leader' across the State.

Competent leadership

Whether the party is in power or in the opposition, Sri Siddaramaiah manages his position competently. Sri Siddaramaiah, who was the leader of the opposition twice in the past - in 2009 and 2019 - has been successful and effective as leader of opposition.

The 'Ballari Chalo' campaign and the '40 per cent government' campaign were Sri Siddaramaiah's brilliant strategies that worked well. Apart from this, Sri Siddaramaiah has risen to the challenge every time the Congress party faced difficulties in the state. He has been appreciated by all as a favourite leader. He is a role model for all Congress MLAs and young politicians who are inspired by his actions and words.

An experienced politician

Say Congress, and a name that comes to mind instantly is Sri Siddaramaiah. His administrative acumen and ingenuity in formulating and implementing schemes that change the lives of the masses have earned him a special place in the minds of the people. Sri Siddaramaiah, a law graduate from the University of Mysore, was inspired by Mysore Nanjundaswamy, a lawyer who contested his first election in 1983. Sri Siddaramaiah, who became an MLA from Chamundeshwari constituency, has since contested 13 elections. His experience as the president of the Kannada Kavalu Samiti, finance minister and deputy chief minister of the State twice during the tenure of Sri Ramakrishna Hegde, has had a significant impact on Karnataka's development.

Ahinda leader

Sri Siddaramaiah is known as the voice of the weaker sections of society across the State. He has always stood against the caste system and hierarchical strata in society. The 'Annabhagya Scheme' was his first announcement after coming to power. It showcased his ideology of being pro-poor. Sri Siddaramaiah, who always strives for the upliftment of the downtrodden, is also working hard for the benefit of all. The 'Annabhagya', 'Ksheerabhagya' and 'Indira Canteen' schemes announced when he first became the chief minister, and the current 'Five Guarantees', are a reflection of Sri Siddaramaiah's concern for the people.

Ballari Chalo made a mark

Both in the history of State politics and in Sri Siddaramaiah's life, the 'Ballari Chalo' of 2010 played a very important role. This 'walk' is said to be the main reason for the formation of the Congress government in the State. It also earned Sri Siddaramaiah appreciation from the people and support to be chief minister. During a debate in the Assembly, some MLAs had challenged Sri Siddaramaiah to visit Ballari. Accepting the challenge, he said, "We will definitely come to Ballari. We will come walking". This 320-km long walk received a huge response from all over the State. The Congress government was successful in highlighting its concern for the people everywhere through this walk. The walk also highlighted the issue of mining irregularities in Ballari. This 16-day walk started in Bengaluru and reached Ballari via Nelamangala, Tumakuru, and Chitradurga. Despite being over 60 years of age, Sri Siddaramaiah braved the scorching heat and marched with his senior leaders. This march attracted attention not only at the State but also at the national level. It was a campaign against the BJP government in power then and the miners of Bellari. It not only gave a new lease of life to the Congress party but also laid a solid foundation for Sri Siddaramaiah to become the chief minister of the State.

This march was successful with the participation of lakhs of people. As expected, the Congress government led by Sri Siddaramaiah came to power in the State with a majority in the subsequent election. Sri Siddaramaiah's era, which began in 2013, continues to this day and is contributing new records to the pages of history.

Ballari Chalo facts

Total distance: 320 km | **Started:** July 25, 2010 (from Bengaluru)
End: August 9, 2010 (in Ballari) | **No. of days:** 16 days | **Average distance covered daily:** 20 km | **Participation:** Around four lakhs participated in the final rally at Ballari

A role model in leadership

Sri Siddaramaiah has always launched schemes for the weaker sections, writes **P G R Scindia**, State Chief Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides.

Developing states need a stable government. Sri Siddaramaiah's own strength has played an important role in this path. Only a few people have the ability to not only get votes but also consolidate their party and bring it to power. Sri Siddaramaiah has succeeded in doing this. With his ability, he has not only brought the party to power in the State but also formed a stable government.

We have been together since 1977. Earlier, we were in the Janata Parivar. Now we are in the Congress. He has made a great effort to lead everyone together, take the officials into confidence and provide good governance to the people. Even so, it is natural to hear criticism. However, despite the criticism, the people of the State have appreciated his work. Criticism is natural in politics. However, rather than answering those critics verbally, one should answer them through work. He is handling this task competently.

In the State, in 1983, we started providing one kg of rice for Rs 2. Since then, he has his vision set on the poor. In the past, even when he was the finance minister, he adopted a pro-poor attitude. Even today, his voice for the poor is strong. That is why he is serving as the chief minister for such a long time. He has mastered the skill of providing sound governance.

A new order in social justice

Sri Siddaramaiah's visionary leadership strikes a balance between development and social welfare. His guarantee schemes give a new dimension to the concept of welfare state, writes senior Congress leader **R V Deshpande**

A leader who lent an institutional form to social justice in Karnataka politics was the late Sri D Devaraj Urs. After decades, Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah is firmly moving ahead on the same path. Sri Siddaramaiah, the first chief minister to come back to power for a full term after Sri Devaraja Urs in Karnataka, and with strong public opinion with him, has instilled new confidence in the people of the State. While Sri Devaraj Urs championed the cause of the weaker sections through his revolutionary land reforms – 'the tiller is the owner of the land' – Sri Siddaramaiah has expanded the same thinking beginning with 'Annabhagya' and today's 'five guarantees'. He has succeeded in bringing the backward classes, Dalits and minorities into the political and social mainstream.

Sri Siddaramaiah, who has presented a record-breaking budget, has a firm grip on the State's economy. Striking a balance between development and welfare is the strength of his administration. He has given new meaning to the concept of 'welfare state' through guarantee schemes such as 'Grihalakshmi' and 'Grihaljyoti'.

Sri Siddaramaiah is not just a politician. He is a humanitarian leader who responds to the pain of the oppressed. A feeling of 'our government' was instilled in the people during the time of Sri Devaraj Urs. The same confidence is seen in today's administration. This administration is building a prosperous Karnataka on the foundation of social justice. It will be recorded in golden letters in the history of the State.

Long-serving chief ministers of Karnataka

Sri Siddaramaiah:
7 years 240 days
(as on Jan 7, 2026)

Sri D Devaraj Urs:
7 years 239 days

Sri S Nijalingappa:
7 years 175 days

Pro-people administration focused on social justice

Sri Siddaramaiah's transparency in governance, financial discipline, unwavering loyalty to the values of the Constitution and politics of reconciliation brings everyone together, transcending caste, religion and language, says **Basavaraj Rayareddy,** Economic Advisor to the Chief Minister and MLA from Yelaburga

Congratulations to Sri Siddaramaiah. His visionary leadership has taken the legacy of social justice and all-round development in Karnataka forward. The political history of Karnataka has a golden legacy formed by the bold struggles of great leaders who advocated the values of pro-people governance, social justice and Constitutional equality. The progressive political culture of this country has grown only from leaders who stood courageously on behalf of the exploited, backward and marginalised communities.

Among the great leaders who have left an indelible mark in that legacy is Sri Devaraj Urs. He served as the chief minister of Karnataka for 2,792 days, from March 20, 1972 to December 31, 1977 and from February 28, 1978 to January 7, 1980. He wrote an immortal chapter in the political history of the State through land reforms, social justice, upliftment of backward classes and empowerment of the exploited. Apart from that, the broad-minded ideas and sincere thoughts of the former chief ministers of Karnataka, Sri Kengal Hanumanthaiyya, Sri Nijalingappa and Sri Ramakrishna Hegde are still strong in our memory. They steered the State of Karnataka towards progressive thinking. Moving ahead on the same path of social justice, philosophical and political traditions, and all-round development, in line with contemporary needs, Sri Siddaramaiah has set a new milestone in the history of Karnataka.

He has served as chief minister from May 13, 2013 to May 15, 2018 and continues from May 20, 2023. He has created a record through his long and meaningful administration. It is a matter of immense pride for the people of the State. And I believe he will work hard for the all-round development as the chief minister of this State for the next two and a half years - until May 28, 2028.

Sri Siddaramaiah's honest and transparent administration is clearly pro-people, Constitutional and focused on social justice. It provides for all communities in the State without any discrimination on the basis of religion or caste.

Sri Siddaramaiah's sincere ideas have played a significant role in providing financial security and social respect to the poor, women, workers, students and youth. His ambitious schemes such as 'Annabhagya', 'Ksheerabhagya', 'Vidyasiri', 'Indira Canteen', 'Shakti', 'Grihalakshmi', 'Grihaljyoti', 'Yuvanidhi' have covered a vast section of the masses. These schemes are reflections of his bold political resolve to make Karnataka a true welfare state.

Sri Siddaramaiah's transparency in governance, financial discipline, unwavering loyalty to the values of the Constitution and politics of reconciliation brings everyone together, transcending caste, religion and language. These are the hallmarks of his leadership.

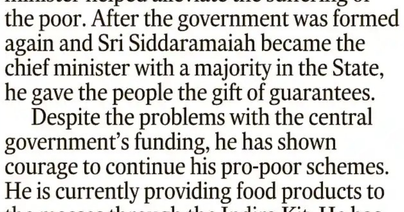
Sri Siddaramaiah will certainly be remembered with respect as a leader who gave contemporary political form to social and progressive vision.

In this context, on behalf of the crores of people of Karnataka, I extend my respectful and heartfelt congratulations for his visionary leadership, pro-people policies and tireless service in boldly leading the State on the path of equality, harmony and social justice. May his governance be a beacon for generations to come.

It is my wish that Karnataka further strengthens its position at the national level as a model State of all-round development, social justice and harmony.

Sri Siddaramaiah: A symbol of efficient governance

Sri Siddaramaiah's has distinguished himself as a leader with a heart that cares about the hardships of the common people, writes **K H Muniyappa**, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Karnataka



Sri Siddaramaiah is a household name because of his pro-poor and pro-downtrodden governance in the State. From the very beginning, his plans and thoughts were pro-poor and pro-oppressed classes. Sri Siddaramaiah is recorded in the pages of history as one of the leaders who worked hard for the progress of the backward classes. Even after Independence, many people who were exploited and did not attain 'independence', found justice in Sri Siddaramaiah's plans.

In addition, he has provided equal and fair governance to all sections, including farmers and women. Sri Siddaramaiah, who always has a heart for the poor, announced the 'Anna Bhagya Yojana' to alleviate the hunger of the poor when he took oath as the chief minister. Through this, he distinguished himself as a leader with a heart that cares about the hardships of the common people. Later, the boons he gave the masses as a full-time chief minister helped alleviate the suffering of the poor. After the government was formed again and Sri Siddaramaiah became the chief minister with a majority in the State, he gave the people the gift of guarantees.

Despite the problems with the central government's funding, he has shown courage to continue his pro-poor schemes. He is currently providing food products to the masses through the Indira Kit. He has always been recognised as a leader who has many thoughts in favour of the poor, the exploited classes and the backward classes. That is why everyone praises his leadership.

By always caring for the people, he has set a new record of serving as the longest chief minister after Sri D Devaraj Urs, with a pro-people administration. It is our wish that this service of Sri Siddaramaiah will be further extended to the State and that he will take more revolutionary steps towards making the lives of the poor better.

Village eyes kids' future, weans eyeballs away from screens for 2 hrs

Siren goes off at 7 pm, 9 pm daily to mark start & end of digital detox

BELAGAVI, DHNS

It's a digital detox of a different kind. Not the type that urbanites resort to occasionally, what with smartphones, computers and TVs virtually having become the be all and end all of life.

People off all ages and genders in Halaga village on the outskirts of Belagavi have imposed upon themselves screen-free time between 7 pm and 9 pm daily, usually peak study period of their wards, so that they aren't distracted from homework and other curricular activities.

The village is cheek by jowl the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, the state's second secretariat where the winter session of the legislature takes place every year.

Residents have collectively decided not to use any gadget in the twin evening hours. This ensures that students dedicate time for studies and parents too can attentively assist them in the academic pursuit.

Halaga could well become the state's first screen-free village, albeit for just two hours daily, in the state.

The decision was arrived at during a meeting on Wednesday evening at the Gram Panchayat (GP) premises and the concept was duly explained to those present. It was instantly agreed upon and enforced.

The screen-free village initiative was launched in the presence of gram panchayat president Laxmi Gajapati and others at Halaga village near Belagavi recently.

A siren installed in front of the GP office goes off at 7 pm daily to mark the beginning of the wean-yourself-from-screen period. It sounds again at 9 pm to mark the end of the restriction.

The inspiration for Halaga was not far to seek. It came from the success of a similar experiment in Agran Dhulgaon in Sangli district of neighbouring Maharashtra.

There, elders are busy in household chores and chat among themselves as students focus on their books in the chosen period.

Social activists from Halaga brought to the GP's notice the success in the Maharashtra village. It was unanimously decided to implement the concept and instal a siren in front of the GP office near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj memorial.

Residents in Halaga now hope that their kids' academic performance will be on the ascendant and the bond among the elders is at its best, thanks to conversations in the screen-free interval.

Retired teacher B H Bilgoji said parents should ensure that their children are away from gadgets and concentrate on studies for at least these two hours.

Social activist Charukeerti Saibannavar, GP president Laxmi Gajapati, PDO Asha G, students and parents were present at the launch of the initiative.

Relatives kidnap man for 'getting hitched to girl not of their liking'

TEKKALAKOTE (BALLARI DIST), DHNS

A 25-year-old man from Kuriganuru near here has been reportedly kidnapped by two of his maternal uncles, an aunt and her husband. Of the two uncles, one is said to be a BSF jawan.

The victim, Ramesh, had got engaged to a girl from Buduguppa village on December 1. The alliance was opposed by uncles Rudrappa, Hanumantha (BSF jawan), aunt Gangamma and her husband Chidananda.

It is said that they kidnapped Ramesh on December 17, and a complaint in this regard was lodged at the Sirigeri police station on December 18.

On December 23, Ramesh called up Thippeswamy, a relative, and told him that he had been kidnapped by the suspects and that he had been locked up at a place near a Hanuman temple in Delhi.

The Sirigeri police rushed to Delhi on December 24, only to find that the suspects had fled from the spot, taking the victim along with them.

In her complaint to the Sirigeri police, Ramesh's mother Eramma has demanded that her son should be rescued and the suspects arrested.

The police have now issued a lookout notice for Hanumantha, Rudrappa and Chidananda.

RALLYING FOR RIGHTS

Buddhist monks march to Freedom Park for a protest demanding that the full administration of the holy site Bodh Gaya in Bihar be handed over to the community, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. They also sought the repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Act of 1949.
DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Heritage banyan among 6,868 trees...

Trees, From Page 1

BMRCL has pledged to plant native shrubs and groundcovers in medians under elevated structures to form green belts, improve the streetscape and mitigate environmental impact.

Under compensatory afforestation, BMRCL plans to spend Rs 7.18 crore along Corridor 1 and Rs 1.69 crore along Corridor 2. It will spend another Rs 19.7 crore and Rs 6.26 crore, respectively, on environmental monitoring during construction.

BMRCL received tree-cutting permission for Package 1 (JP Nagar-Mysuru Road) in September 2025 and expects to receive approvals for the entire project by mid-2026.

The project will also impact Bonnet Macaque, a vulnerable species named on the IUCN Red List. BMRCL has planned a species-specific conservation plan.

Dattatreya T Devare of nonprofit Bangalore Environment Trust believes the EIA report does not provide adequate details of the affected trees.

Stating that the BMRCL was not being transparent, he said public consultations were conducted in August and September without providing adequate information beforehand.

"Only a brief presentation was made. How are people expected to provide meaningful comments?" he asked.

He said BMRCL also ignored residents' suggestions to tweak the alignment to save big trees in Nagarabhavi.

What rapid EIA found

According to a rapid EIA by professors Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli, 652 trees across 34 species will be affected along the 5.1-km Nagarabhavi–Sumanahalli Junction stretch. Of these, 463 have been marked to be cut while 189 will be otherwise impacted.

The tallest tree marked for cutting is a 15-metre-tall African tulip (Spathodea campanulata). The trees on this stretch sequestered 280 metric tonnes of carbon.

Gig workers Act...

Gig workers, From Page 1

Pointing to the clause in the act that provides 1-5% welfare fee, Lad told *DH* that the welfare fee could be increased in the future if need be.

At the moment, there is no clarity on whether the aggregators will bear the cost themselves or pass it on to customers.

Alongside the welfare fee, the Karnataka Gig Workers' Social Security and Welfare Fund will include money received as contributions by individual gig workers, grants-in-aid from the Union and state governments.

The minister explained that an integrated software was being developed to store the details of contributions by the aggregators.

"Wipro has said they will help us. Till the software is developed, there will be an ad-hoc arrangement for the aggregators to pay money," he added.

Welfare board

The notification will also specify the members of the Gig Workers Welfare Board.

According to the Act, the board comprises 15 members, including five representatives from the government (including the labour minister), four representatives of gig workers, four representative bodies of aggregators and two members from civil society.

There will also be a special invitee, a technical expert in data collection and IT systems.

A list of stakeholders to be nominated as board members has been processed by the department. This list will soon be finalised by Lad, who heads the board.

The board must ensure that the registration of gig workers and aggregator platforms happens as per the provisions of the Act.

The aggregator is expected to provide a database of all its onboarded gig workers to the board, which will then generate a unique ID for all gig workers onboarded on one or more platforms.

"The state law will not have any repugnancy with the code on social security, since the state law is more comprehensive and regulates working conditions, algorithm management, grievance redressal mechanism etc," Additional Labour Commissioner G Manjunath said.

Karnataka App-based Workers' Union president Inayat Ali welcomed the move but felt the welfare fee was not adequate. "From the beginning, we sought a welfare fee in the range of 2-5%. This is very little. When companies spend so much on public relations, why can't they increase the welfare fee?" he added.

Temple lamp row: Madras HC...

DMK, From Page 1

While the government said it would appeal against the order in the Supreme Court, the BJP welcomed the judgment and hoped that the government will stop its blatant misuse of power and respect the rule of law by allowing lighting of the lamp.

The judges concluded that the state government and the dargah failed to produce formidable evidence to show that Agama Sastra of Shaivites prohibits lighting lamps at a place which is not straight on top of the deity in the sanctum sanctorum.

'Political agenda'

The judges commented that it was "ridiculous and hard to believe" the fear of the mighty state that allowing lighting of the lamp at a pillar on a particular day in a year, will cause disturbance to public peace".

"Of course, it may happen only if such disturbance is sponsored by the state itself. We pray no state should stoop to that level to achieve their political agenda," the judges wrote.

The bench also unequivocally stated that it was the duty of the state government to maintain law and order and said it was an "unmanageable task" to keep the devotees at the foothill and worship when the light is lit atop the hills.

"Projecting as if such a congregation will cause disturbance to peace, stampede, disharmony among community etc., is either exposure of their incapacity to maintain law and order or reluctance to bring harmony among the communities," the bench said.

The judges also added that the state should have taken the single judge verdict as an opportunity to bridge differences between the two communities – Hindus and Muslims.

"Unfortunately, due to lack of conviction, all these years, peace meetings have paved way only for widening the mistrust. We hope, by implementing the below directions, which can be suitably modified whenever a festival of the respective community falls, there will be only light and not any fight," they wrote.

Up to 6 flats allowed on 200 sq m...

Flats, From Page 1

Such a relaxation also applies for plots measuring 360 sq m and above in Ring I and II areas.

The notification however makes a minimum road width of nine metres mandatory for the development of apartments across all categories.

While relaxing apartment permissions, there is also a height restriction that the property owners are required to follow, but that has been increased from 11.5 metres to a maximum height of 15 metres. This provision will help the 30x40 sq ft plot owners to build four floors including stilt but the total number of kitchens is restricted to four.

The notification also reduces the setback norms, which can potentially damage neighbouring properties.

Shrikant S Channal, an expert in building bye-laws, opined that building relaxations will remain on paper as the government did not relax the floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.75. "When the building plans are prepared, none of the relaxations can be actually put to use unless the FAR is relaxed," he insisted, adding that the notification may only help in getting electricity connections and nothing else.

Suhas Ananth Rajkumar, a resident of CV Raman Nagar, who is fighting against illegal constructions in his neighborhood, said the final notification had several new relaxations that were not there in the draft.

"A new category (150 sq m to 250 sq m) for the setback relaxation has been included which was not in the draft. Similarly, the number of residential units has increased. Ideally, the government should have revised the draft instead of including the new elements in the final notification," he said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Jan 07: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	27.2	13.8	00
Bidar	27	11.6	00
Vijayapura	27.5	12	00
Dharwad	26.6	11.6	00
Haveri	28.4	12.6	00
Kalaburagi	29.8	16.8	00
Raichur	29	13.6	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.5	20.4	00
Karwar	34.4	20.4	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.5	23.7	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	27.1	16.6	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	27.2	14.7	00
Davangere	29.5	13.2	00
Hassan	29	12.7	00
Mysuru	28.2	16.2	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	26.8	13.8	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	18	7.6	00
Kolkata	18.8	9.5	00
Mumbai	32.6	20	00
Chennai	28.9	23.7	00
Pune	28.3	12.9	00
Hyderabad	27.2	15.2	00
Th'puram	33	23.3	00

INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO-UROLOGY
(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute -Regd. No. 1052/03-04)
(A Post Graduate Institue of Higher Medical Sciences, Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. Recognised by Medical Council of India)
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E-Mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com Website: www.nephrourology.in
No: INU/TND/MYDDS/11/2025-26 Date: 05.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-560 002 invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the following subjects.

1. Procurement of Drugs, Disposables, Sutures and Misc., Items for Institute of Nephro-Urololgy Unit, Mysore **(Call-II)**.

Last Date for Online Submission of Tender is **03.02.2026 at 5.30 P.M**
For any further details please log on to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru.

Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Almel
No:APMC(A)/127/2025-26 Date:06.01.2026
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
1) Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF 80 MT ELECTRONIC WEIGH BRIDGE AT APMC ALMEL. **Amount put to Tender Rs. 51,32,917=80 (Excluding GST). E.M.D. in Rs.1,02,660=00 through e-portal.**
The above development workS approved under the annual auction plan for the Financial year 2025-26, Interested and eligible contractors are invited to submit bids through the e-procurement system (E-Portal) the last date and time for submissions of tenders is **23.01.2026 up to 5.30 PM.** For further details please visit the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Secretary APMC Almel **Sd/- Chairman APMC Almel**
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/594/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru District - 570020
Ph.0821-2515598 Email: eevccdn2@gmail.com
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
No.13/2025-26, Dated: 06-01-2026
Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bengaluru from Eligible Registered Contractors for **01** Number of Rejuvenation of tank and Tank Beautification works amounting **1475.00** Lakhs to take up these works on Item Rate Contract basis. The last date for Tender quarries/clarification is **Date: 09-01-2026 till 5.30pm.** Last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **Date:13-01-2026 till 5.00 p.m.** Date of opening of Technical bid is **Date: 14-01-2026 at 5.30 p.m.** and Date of opening of Financial bid is **Date: 16-01-2026 at 5.30 pm** For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through KPP-Portal by logging in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru

FMSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(MYSORE BRANCH OFFICE)
MYSORE TRADE CENTER, 3rd Floor, Opp to KSRTC Bus Stand, Above Bhima Jewellers, Mysore - 570001. Phone No. 0821-2344100
No.: MSIL/003/2025-26 Date: 07.01.2026
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e- procurement Portal)
Short-Term Tenders are invited from eligible Individuals/ Firms/Agencies **for transporting Liquor stocks from KSBCL Tipturu Depot to respective MSIL liquor outlets of Hassan District coming under Mysore Branch.** Last date and time for submission of bids: **21.01.2026** up to **3.00 PM.** Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.
Sd/- Branch Head (Mysore Branch)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ನಂ.6, ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:1604 ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.01.2026
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ನಂ.6 ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ರವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾರ್ಯವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 14 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು WI.3395, WI.3412 , WI.3406, WI.3386, WI.3396, WI.3387, WI.3393 ,WI.3612 WI.3620 WI.3444 WI.3399 WI.3443 WI.3390 & WI.3408 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಪೊತ್ತ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ರೂ.33.80 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ.263.01 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಂತೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವರು.
ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪುಸ್ತಕವನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:-08.01.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 23.01.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ: 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 24.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ: 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 29.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ:5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. (WI.3395, WI.3412 , WI.3406, WI.3386, WI.3396, WI.3387, WI.3393 , WI.3620 WI.3444 WI.3399 WI.3443 WI.3390 & WI.3408 ಗಳಿಗೆ)
2. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 9.02.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ: 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 10.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ: 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 16.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ:5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. (WI.3612 ಗೆ)
ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಜಾಲತಾಣ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ/ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ, ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೋರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ ಇಮೇಲ್:eeno6cdbly@yahoo.in ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ.,ನಂ.6, ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/870/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)
KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
III Floor, Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavana, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No.: 080-29710021/ 22 / 23 / 24 Fax: 080-29710025
E-mail: coo.krrda.karbng@gmail.com Website: http://www.krrda.in
No:KRRDA/TECH/JE-02/208/TND NOT-6/2025-26/2501 Date: 05-01-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION-6
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, KRRDA invites Item Rate Tenders through KPP Portal for the following Indent works.
I) **Under Financial Incentive Scheme of KRRDA, Bengaluru.**
i) Others - **KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT No. 248, 258, 255, 254, 253, 250, 269, 267, 264, 263, 261, 260, 277, 276, 273, 272, 289, 286, 285, 282, 281**
SC - **259, 257, 266, 265, 278, 284, 280**
ST - **262, 271, 287**
CAT-I - **251, 288**
CAT-II(A) - **249, 256, 252, 268, 279, 275, 274, 270, 283**
ii) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **2% of the Amount Put to Tender.**
Calendar of tendering events are as follows:
1) Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **16-01-2026 at 11.00 AM. 2)** Last Date for Online Submission of Bids: **27-01-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **28-01-2026 at 5:00 PM onwards. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **30-01-2026 at 5.00 PM onwards or After Completing the Technical Bid Evaluation of the respective works.**
For any information, the **Executive Engineer, KRRDA** may be contacted. Further tender details can be obtained from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Note: The Bidders submitting tender for SC, ST, CAT-I and CAT-II(A) allotted tenders should upload the Caste Certificate and Domicile Certificate for having resided in the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years issued by the Competent Authority in the KPP Portal along with their bid compulsorily. Otherwise such Bids will be summarily rejected.
Sd/- Tendering Officer and Executive Engineer KRRDA, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4888/Adverto/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ
E-mail ID: spkwr@ksp.gov.in & storeskwr@ksp.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಂಗ್ರಹ/ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ/303(5)/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–01–2026
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಸ್
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಂಚಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಯಾದ **VMS (Variable Message Sing Boards)** ನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–1999 ನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ವಿವರ: (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ **No:Store/Road Safety/303(5)2025-26** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **03–01–2026** (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ: **62.25 Lakhs** (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **09-01-2026 11:30Hrs** (5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **17-01-2026 17:30 Hrs** (6) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **19-01-2026 17:30 Hrs** (7) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **21-01-2026 17:30 Hrs** (8) **EMD** ಮೊತ್ತ: **1,55,500/–** (9) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಭೆಯ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಛೇರಿ ಎಮ್.ಜಿ ರೋಡ್ ಕಾಜುಬಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ. ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, **581 301.**
ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಂಚಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಯಾದ **VMS (Variable Message Sing Boards)** ನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ಇ–ಖರೀದಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್. ಇ–ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಖರೀದಿ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ಫಾರಂನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಥವಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **08382–226307** ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಹಾಗೂ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು.
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/919/25-26 Dt.06.01.2026 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ.

Bomb threats trigger panic at courts

Probe underway to trace source of hoax mails

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Tension prevailed at the Dharwad bench of the High Court, and district courts in Gadag and Bagalkot for some time on Tuesday, following bomb threat emails.

The premises was evacuated. The court proceedings were suspended for the day. Security was heightened at the court complex on P B Road in Dharwad. Bomb detection and disposal squads and dog squads were pressed into service. Over 100 policemen were deployed at the spot.

Similar precautionary measures were taken in Gadag and Bagalkot courts. The police evacuated the court complexes. Probe is underway to trace the source of the emails.

In Mysuru

Tension prevailed on the premises of Mysuru law courts on Krishnaraja Boulevard and the Court Complex at Malalavadi (Jayanagar) in Mysuru following a similar bomb threat mail. But, after thorough checks, the police found it to be a hoax.

The city police rushed to the court premises, along with the anti-sabotage team and dog squad. As a precautionary measure, all the judges, advocates, staff and clients were evacuated from both the premises. The court proceedings were halted for the first half of the day. After thorough checks, the threat was found to be hoax. Later, after 2 pm, the police permitted to continue the proceedings. The people were allowed to enter the court premises via door frame metal detectors.

Police and bomb disposal squad members conduct a search on the district court premises following a threat e-mail, in Mysuru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

The mail was sent at 1.54 am to the Principal District and Sessions Judge of Mysuru. The court staff read the mail on Tuesday morning. Immediately, District Principal Sessions Judge alerted City Police Commissioner and necessary precautionary measures were taken.

A similar scene played out in Hassan also. The police swung into action after a bomb threat e-mail was received at the court complex. As a precautionary measure, the police special security force, dog squad and bomb disposal squad visited the spot and inspected the court complex.

Tension prevailed for a while and the staff, advocates and others were evacuated from the court during the inspection.

There was a bomb threat mail to the DC's office, taluk tahsildar's office in December 2024.

Anupama Sekhar appointed new director of BIC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore International Centre (BIC) has appointed Anupama Sekhar as its new director.

A seasoned professional with over two decades of experience, she succeeds Vikram Bhat at one of the city's leading hubs for arts, culture and public discourse.

Anupama is an expert in international cultural policy and has held senior positions at the Asia–Europe Foundation in Singapore and the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies. She has also worked as a consultant with UNESCO for over a decade.

An alumna of Stella Maris College, Chennai, she is widely recognised for her work in building inclusive civic spaces.

Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat takes a look at exhibits at the Kamalapur museum near Hampi on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/LAVA K

Drones near monuments: Order soon on withdrawal of ban

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS

Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Tuesday that an official order would soon be issued on withdrawal of the ban on flying drones near monuments under the protection of ASI.

The minister made this announcement after a meeting of senior officials from the ASI (Archaeological Survey of India), tourism and other related departments here.

The meeting also discussed on the issue of allowing tourists to carry their cameras near the monuments free of cost. Sources said an order may be issued on this too, soon. Protection of monuments in Hampi would be undertaken while safeguarding religious tourism here, the minister said, seeking the state government's co-operation in this endeavour.

The Centre was committed to develop Hampi, even while focusing on hygiene and development of basic amenities here, Shekhawat said. The union government would come up with a comprehensive plan, he added.

Earlier in the day, Shekhawat visited the Vijaya Vittala temple in the heritage town. He also went around the Kamalapur museum as also Anjanadri, believed to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman.

RailOne users to get 3% discount on unreserved train tickets

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian Railways will offer a 3% discount on unreserved tickets booked on the RailOne app using all digital payment modes.

This discount was earlier applicable only on payments made through R-Wallet. Now, passengers can also receive a discount on UPI and bank card payments.

The discount will be valid from January 14 to July 14, according to the South Western Railway (SWR).

RailOne users can book reserved and unreserved tickets, check live train running status, access PNR status, plan journeys, register complaints, seek assistance via Rail Madad and order food.

Existing IRCTC RailConnect and UTS account holders can log in to RailOne using the same credentials.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

CANCELLATION NOTICE OF THE E-TENDER

Tender No. EL-CON-513

The e-tender No. **EL-CON-513** of the work of **"Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of VRF Air Conditioning System, Internal Electrical Works and Associated Power Infrastructure for Indoor Stadium at CLW Township."** valued Rs. **1,99,92,700.36/-** (Rupees One Crore Ninety Nine Lakhs Ninety-Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Paise Thirty-Six only) with closing date **09.01.2026** is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons. Note : Complete details can be seen in the Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**

PR6/278 SEE/M/CLW/Chittaranjan

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: **a) Tender No.: EL/1613. b) Name of the work:** Trimming of Trees and clearing of vegetation in the vicinities of HT/LT overhead lines, poles & electrical infrastructure for year 2026-27. **c) Contract Type:** Works. **d) Tender Value (GST inclusive) (Rupees): ₹ 16,38,905.00/-** (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Thirty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Five) only. **e) Cost of tender Document (Rupees):** Not Applicable. **f) Earnest Money (Rupees): ₹ 32,800/-** (Rupees Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred) only. **g) Period of completion (In Months):** 12 (Twelve) Months. **h) Date of closing: 19.01.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Note:** Complete details can be seen on the Railway's website **www.ireps.gov.in**

[PR4/276] SEE/M/CLW/Chittaranjan

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Madurai Division

TENDER NOTICE NO.: U-TRD-OT-25-26-XIII dated 02.01.2026

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016 invites E-Tenders from reputed contractors for the under mentioned works.

Sl. No	Tender No & Name of the Work	Approx. Tender Value (₹)	Bid Security (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)	Completion Period
1*	**U-TRD-OT-25-26-XIII-1** Madurai Division – Provision of Auxiliary Transformer and associated TRD arrangements for interlocking of LC Gates in TEN-TSI-BJM, VPT-TSI and TEN-TCN sections	1,06,81,201.72	2,03,400	NIL	12 months
2*	**U-TRD-OT-25-26-XIII-2** Madurai Division – Provision of Auxiliary Transformer and associated TRD arrangements for interlocking of LC Gates in MDU-MNM, MNM-VPT, MNM-RMM and KKDI-MNM sections	71,46,322.84	1,42,900	NIL	12 months
3	**U-TRD-OT-25-26-XIII-3** Madurai Division – Provision of Auxiliary Transformer and associated TRD arrangements for interlocking of LC Gates in DG-PLNI-POY and TPJ-KKDI-PNGI sections	42,34,766.02	84,700	NIL	12 months
4*	**U-TRD-OT-25-26-XIII-4** Madurai Division – Outsourcing of Maintenance of PSI Assets and Non-Core OHE Activities in RMD (excl.) / RMM (incl.) section for the period of three years	1,31,25,661.99	2,15,600	11,200	36 months

***Eligibility criteria is applicable for these tenders.**

Tender Closing Date: **27.01.2026 & 15:00 hours**

For details, interested persons may kindly log on to the website at **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** For eligibility criteria, other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded. All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded on the website only and will not be published separately in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Traction Distribution)
Southern Railway, Madurai – 625016

Form No. INC 26

[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

Before the Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
In The Matter Section 13(4) Of The Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(5)(a) of the Companies (incorporation) Rules, 2014
And

In the matter of
EVERTON TEA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED.
Having its Registered office at No.102, Gangadhar Chetty Road Bengaluru - 560 042., Karnataka India.

.... APPLICANT

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Thursday 4th December 2025 to enable the Company to change its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka, under the jurisdiction of Registrar of Companies, Bangalore to the State of Tamil Nadu, under the jurisdiction of Registrar of Companies, Chennai.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Hon'ble Regional Director, South East Region at 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500 068, Telangana, within Fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Registered Office:
No. 102, Gangadhar Chetty Road
Bengaluru - 560 042, Karnataka, India.

For and on behalf of the applicant
For Everton Tea India Private Limited
Roshan Anthony Gunawardhana
Date : 07-01-2026 **Director**
Place : Bengaluru **DIN: 08118978**

JOB VACANCY

MANAGER FOR GOLDEN PALM EXTENSION CANTEENS (GPECs), KGF (KOLAR) AND VIRAJPET (KARNATAKA)

1. Applications are invited from Retired Defence Officers for the post of Manager for Golden Palm Extension Canteens (GPECs), at KGF(KOLAR) and Virajpet. Employment will be for 11 (eleven) months on contractual basis. Interested candidates must visit GPC Website **gpcscblr.co.in** for further details.

2. Applications-cum-Biodata form alongwith connected documents be forwarded to Canteen Officer, Golden Palm Canteen Cell, C/o HQ K&K Sub Area, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 01 with full address and mobile No, through Regd Post or on mail ID No : gpccellkksa@gmail.com by **20 Jan 2026.**

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS INDIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF POSTMASTER,
BENGALURU GPO, BENGALURU 560001

Memo No.F/Disc/ 07/ VS/GDS/2024-25 dated at Bengaluru GPO the 05.01.2026

Sri Varun .S, Dak Sevak, Bengaluru GPO was proceeded by the competent Disciplinary Authority under Rule10 (B) of the Gramin Dak Sevak (Conduct & Engagement)Rules 2020. The Memorandum of article of charges issued vide this office Memo No.F/DISC/07/VS/GDS/2024-25 dated 19.04.2025, addressed to the last known address of Sri Varun S, Dak Sevak, Bengaluru GPO by Registered Post and also sent through a responsible officer of the Department was returned undelivered with remark that the "Door locked", "addressee left India ".The father of the said official informed over phone to the Public Relation Inspector (Postal) Rajaji Nagar Head Post Office that the said official is in abroad and studying MS for two years. Accordingly the competent Disciplinary Authority is here by issues a notice to the said Sri Varun S, Dak Sevak, Bengaluru GPO that if he fails to respond in any way or contact the undersigned with in eight (8) days of publication of this notice, a decision shall be taken ex-parte.

Seal & Sd/-
Deputy Chief Post Master
Bengaluru GPO, Bengaluru-560001

Station: Bengaluru GPO
Dated: 05.01.2026

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India
Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Tourism, Government of India)
GWALIOR • BHUBANESWAR • GOA • NOIDA • NELLORE
सत्यमेव जयते | पर्यटन शिक्षा संस्कृति रक्षा

SELECTION FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

IITTM is an autonomous institute (registered under the Societies Registration Act) of Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India that was established in 1983. It is the premier institute in the country in the field of tourism education, training research and consultancy. It is a five-campus institute with headquarters at Gwalior and other centers at Bhubaneswar, Noida, Goa and Nellore. It runs MBA (Tourism & Travel Management) & BBA (Tourism & Travel) courses from its campuses along with a large number of training programmes to cater to the needs to the market. Director IITTM is responsible for management of the institute and is required to drive it towards excellence and benchmark with the best in the world. Institute is in the process of selecting the Director. The appointment shall be made on contract basis for tenure of 3 years with possibility of further extension as per IITTM Recruitment Rules and depending upon the merit of the case. Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for the post of Director of IITTM on contract basis in the Pay Level-15 (7th CPC). Circular for this vacancy along with the details of pay scale and related benefits, qualifications, other eligibility conditions and application form can be downloaded from **www.tourism.gov.in** or **www.iittm.ac.in**. Completed applications shall reach **Director (S&CB), Ministry of Tourism, 1st Floor, Transport Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001** in a sealed cover subscribing in bold letter "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, IITTM", so as to reach latest by 1700 hrs on **27.01.2026.**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
ई0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
निविदा सं0 : DMFT/MIR/DHN/ SBD-02/2025-26
दिनांक 02.01.2026

जिला खनिज फाउण्डेशन ट्रस्ट, धनबाद के न्यास परिषद् धनबाद की बैठक दिनांक 29.11.2025 में लिये गये निर्णय के आलोक में धनबाद जिला के निरसा प्रखण्ड के अंतर्गत खुसरी पंचायत के डेढ़िया तालाब का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य हेतु पत्रांक 964(A), दिनांक 28.11.2025 के आलोक में उप विकास आयुक्त सह सचिव DMFT, धनबाद के ज्ञापांक 1123/DMFT धनबाद, दिनांक 30.12.2025 से प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति प्राप्त है।

1	योजना का नाम	खुसरी पंचायत के डेढ़िया तालाब का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य , ग्राम–उदयपुर, प्रखण्ड–निरसा, जिला–धनबाद।
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	49937400.00
3	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में)	10000.00
4	अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में)	499400.00
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	11 माह
6	ऑन लाईन निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	27.01.2026, 12:30 बजे
7	ऑन लाईन निविदा /बीड समर्पित करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	03.02.2026, 5 बजे तक
8	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	05.02.2026, 12:30 बजे
9	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी	कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, लूबी सर्कूलर रोड, धनबाद–826001
10	सम्पर्क सूत्र मोबाईल संख्या	7903299712

नोट :– केवल ई– निविदा हीं मान्य होगी। परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट – बढ़ सकती है । निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा ही स्वीकार्य होगी ।
विशेष जानकारी के लिए : http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in देखें।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल धनबाद।

PR 370161 Minor Irrigation(25-26)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, सिमडेगा

ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)
ई–टेन्डर रेफरेंस नं0–प0नि0वि0/सिमडेगा/16/2025–26
दिनांक–06.01.2026

1.	कार्य का नाम	पथ प्रमण्डल सिमडेगा अंतर्गत "सिमडेगा–रेंगारी–केरसई –बोलवा–उड़ीसा बोर्डर पार्ट–1 (लम्बाई–0.00 कि.मी. से 33.91कि.मी.) एवं पार्ट–2 (लम्बाई–0.00 कि.मी. से 14.30 कि.मी.) (कुल लम्बाई–48.21कि.मी.) का राईडिंग क्वालिटी में सुधार (Improvement of Riding Quality) कार्य।
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपया में)	रूपया 29,58,62,370.14 (उनतीस करोड़ अंठावन लाख बासठ हजार तीन सौ सत्तर रूपये एवं चौदह पैसे) मात्र।
3.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	09 (नौ) माह।
4.	बेबसाईड पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	24.01.2026 को पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से।
5	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	04.02.2026 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक।
6.	ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	06.02.2026 को अपराह्न 12.30 बजे तक।
7.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, सिमडेगा–835223
8.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	82358–16924
9.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	0651–2401010

नोट :– 1. प्राक्कलित राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है।
2. विशेष जानकारी के लिये http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
3. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–शुल्क भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, सिमडेगा

PR.NO.370150 Simdega(25-26):D

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that we are conducting the title due diligence on behalf of our clients with respect to the property described in the Schedule hereto, situated at Thoranahalli Agrahara and Thoranahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, owned / possessed by M/s. Venus Projects and **M/s. Venus Logy Park Private Limited.** Any person or persons, including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property having any objection, claim, interest or right, title on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part or portion thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, succession, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy, maintenance, license, share, assignment, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption or any liability or commitment or otherwise or encumbrance or demand of any nature whatsoever is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing **within Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the due diligence shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO ABOVE

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	Boundaries East by: E West by: W North by: N South by: S
1	30/6	-	08.08	E : Survey No. 30/1 W : Survey No. 30/7 N : Survey No. 48 S : Survey No. 30/3
2	31/3	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 31/4 W : Survey No. 31/1 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
3	31/4	-	29	E : Survey No. 31/5 W : Survey No. 31/3 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
4	31/5	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 31/6 W : Survey No. 31/4 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
5	31/6	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 28 W : Survey No. 31/5 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
6	32/1	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 32/3 W : Survey No. 39 N : Survey No. 40 S : Survey No. 32/4
7	32/3	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 31 W : Survey No. 32/1 & 32/4 N : Survey No. 40 S : Survey No. 32/5
8	32/4	-	11	E : Survey No.32/3 & 32/5 W : Survey No. 35 N : Survey No. 32/1 S : Survey No. 32/6
9	32/5	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 31 W : Survey No. 32/4 & 32/6 N : Survey No. 32/3 S : Survey No. 32/2
10	40/1	-	04	E : Survey No. 31 W : Survey No. 40/2 N : Survey No. 41 & 42 S : Survey No. 32
11	40/2	-	04	E : Survey No. 40/1 W : Survey No. 40/3 N : Survey No. 41 & 42 S : Survey No. 32
12	40/3	-	08	E : Survey No. 40/2 W : Survey No. 40/4 N : Survey No. 41 & 42 S : Survey No. 32
13	41/3	-	06.12	E : Survey No. 30/2 W : Survey No. 42 N : Survey No. 41/2 S : Survey No. 41/4
14	49/2	-	15.08	E : Survey No. 51/1 & 50/1 W : Survey No. 48/4 & 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/4 S : Survey No. 29
15	49/7	-	13.08	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/4 N : Survey No. 49/2 S : Survey No. 49/8
16	49/8	-	15	E : Survey No. 50/1 W : Survey No. 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/7 S : Survey No. 49/9
17	49/9	-	15	E : Survey No. 50/1 W : Survey No. 48/2 & Sy. No 30 N : Survey No. 49/8 S : Survey No. 29
18	49/5	-	34	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/2, 48/3 N : Survey No. 51/3 S : Survey No. 49/6
19	49/6	-	16	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/2 N : Survey No. 49/5 S : Survey No. 49/3
20	49/3	-	10	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/5 S : Survey No. 49/4
21	49/4	-	10	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/3 S : Survey No. 49/2
22	51/4	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 49 N : Survey No. 51/5 S : Survey No. 51/1
23	51/5	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No.49 N : Survey No. 51/6 S : Survey No. 51/4
24	51/6	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 49 N : Survey No. 51/2 & 51/3 S : Survey No. 51/5
25	23/1	03	20	E : Land belonging to Narayanappa W : Kere Angala N : Land belonging to Venkateshappa & Shivanapura Munishyamappa S : Land belonging to Hoskote Srinivas
26	37/1	-	25.08	E : Survey No. 38 W : Survey No. 197 & Thoranahalli Village Boundary N : Survey No. 37/2 S : Survey No. 37/4
27	28/2	-	10	E : Survey No. 7 W : Survey No. 28/1 N : Survey No. 29 S : Survey No. 28/3 & 23
28	42/1	-	07	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 43/2 & 43/3 S : Survey No. 42/2
29	29	04	35	E : Land belonging to Thatappa and Banyan Tree W : Land belonging to Gadheappa N : Land belonging to Poovanna S : Kaluve
30	31/1	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 31/3 W : Survey No. 40 & Sy.No 32 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
31	32/6	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 32/2 & 32/5 W : Survey No. 35 N : Survey No. 32/4 S : Survey No. 33
32	37/3	-	04.08	E : Survey No. 37/4 W : Survey No. 197 N : Survey No. 37/1 S : Survey No. 37/6
33	37/7	-	06.08	E : Survey No. 37/6 W : Thoranahali Village Boundary N : Survey No. 37/3 & 37/4 S : Survey No. 36
34	43/3	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 46 N : Anjinappa's Land S : Anjinappa's Land
35	43/2	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 4 S : Survey No. 3
36	43/4	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 43/2 S : Survey No. 42
37	42/2	-	07	E : Land belonging to Muniyappa W : Land belonging to Venkateshappa N : Land belonging to V. Anjinappa S : Land belonging to Muniyappa
38	42/3	-	06	E : Land belonging to Venkatashamappa W : Land belonging to Venkateshappa N : Land belonging to Muniyappa S : Karabi Kaluve
39	42/4	-	06	E : Land belonging to Venkatashamappa W : Land belonging to Venkatesha Bhatta N : Land belonging to Krishnappa S : Land belonging to V. Anjinappa
40	42/5	-	06	E : Land belonging to Muniyappa W : Land belonging to Venkateshappa N : Land belonging to Venkateshappa S : Land belonging to Munishamappa
41	50/2	-	09	E : Survey No. 50/3 W : Survey No. 50/1 N : Survey No. 51/1 S : Survey No. 29
42	50/3	-	09	E : Survey No. 50/4 W : Survey No. 50/2 N : Survey No. 50/2 S : Survey No. 29
43	50/4	-	09	E : Survey No. 50/5 W : Survey No. 50/3 N : Survey No. 51/1 S : Survey No. 29
44	50/5	-	05	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 50/4 N : Survey No. 51/1 S : Survey No. 29
45	51/1	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 49 N : Sy No. 51/4 S : Survey No. 50/1, 50/2, 50/3, 50/4, 50/5
46	36/1	-	14	E : Land belonging to Balakrishnappa W : Survey No. 197/P1 N : Survey No. 36/1 S : Land belonging to Doddamuniyappa
47	37/5	-	04.04	E : Survey No. 38 W : Survey No. 37/4 N : Survey No. 37/1 S : Survey No. 37/6
48	37/6	-	06.08	E : Survey No. 38 W : Survey No. 37/7 N : Survey No. 37/5 S : Survey No. 36
49	39	-	14	E : Survey No. 32 W : Survey No. 36 N : Survey No. 38 S : Survey No. 35
50	43/1	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 44 S : Survey No. 43
51	137/1	1	20	E : Survey No. 137/3 W : Survey No. 137/2 & 138 N : Survey No.141 & 138 S : Survey No.137/2 & 136
52	40/4	-	04	E : Survey No 40/3 W : Survey No 38 and 39 N : Survey No 41 and 42 S : Survey No. 32
53	293 (old no 197)	-	18	E : Agrahara Boundary W : PWD Road N : Private Land S : Remaining Land
54	136/2	1	30	E : Toranahalli Agrahara boundary W : Road N : Survey No. 136, block I S : Survey No. 197
55	137/2	-	34	E : Survey No. 137/1 W : Survey No. 138 N : Survey No. 137/1 S : Survey No. 136
56	137/3	2	05	E : Toranahalli Agrahara Village Boundary W : Survey No. 137/1 N : Survey No. 138 & 161 S : Survey No. 293

S. T. Prashantha Kumar, Advocate & Senior Partner
Fox Mandal & Associates
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Phone : +91 80 2559 5911,
e-mail: prashantha.kumar@foxmandal.in

FoxMandal
Solicitors & Advocates

Kerala JD(S) to sever ties with national leadership, merge with new party

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI: The Kerala unit of the Janata Dal (Secular) has decided to completely sever ties with its national leadership, led by MP-former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, which is allied with the BJP, and would merge with a new political party.

An official announcement in this regard will be made on Wednesday, a source told PTI.

The source claimed that the party's MLAs would not face the threat of disqualification, as the Kerala unit would merge with a party that is already registered with the Election Commission.

As per the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, such a merger would protect the MLAs from disqualification, the source said.

Under the Tenth Schedule, protection from disqualification applies only if at least two-thirds of the MLAs of a legislative party agree to merge with another party.

At present, the JD(S) has two MLAs in the state -- Mathew T Thomas from Thiruvalla and state Power Minister K Krishnankutty from Chittur.

The move comes as the state heads towards Legislative Assembly polls expected by April this year.

The party's state leadership believes that this would put an end to allegations by the Congress-led UDF that a party which is part of the BJP-led NDA at the national level has representatives in the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala.

The political crisis began after the JD(S) joined the BJP-led alliance during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The state unit, which is aligned with the CPI(M)-led LDF, came under severe opposition attack after H D Kumaraswamy became a Cabinet Minister in the NDA government at the Centre.

At Rs 93k crore, state plans India's biggest Q4 loan haul

Expert calls it poor planning and signal of pressure

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is likely to borrow Rs 930 billion, or Rs 93,000 crore, from the open market in the final January-March quarter, the highest for any Indian state in this period, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

This means Karnataka will borrow an estimated Rs 31,000 crore per month this quarter to close the financial year. The state has borrowed a "modest" Rs 120 billion, or Rs 12,000 crore, until December, according to credit rating agency ICRA.

The burden of having to fund the welfare-based 'guarantee' schemes, coupled with infrastructure projects, has shot up the state's borrowings 160% - from Rs 44,549 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 1.16 lakh crore that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wants to raise this fiscal. Money borrowed is used to repay outstanding loans and fund development works.

As per RBI data, Indian states plan to borrow Rs 4.99 lakh crore in Q4, with Karnataka accounting for nearly 19% of this.

"It's misleading to judge a state's total debt based on one quarter's information," former IAS officer L K Atheeq, who headed the finance department, said.

"Karnataka borrows most of its annual debt in the last quarter of the year due to its excellent cash flows in first three quarters. Other states borrow throughout the year and hence, their borrowing is distributed in all quarters," he explained.

Of the Rs 1.16 lakh crore that Karnataka plans to borrow in the current fiscal, Rs 1.05 lakh crore will be from the open market and the remaining from multilateral development banks.

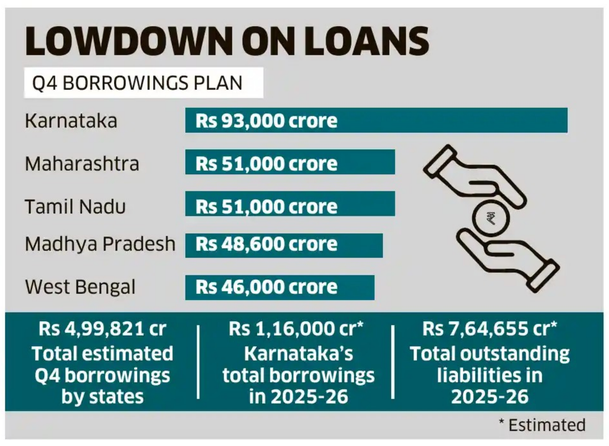
In the first two quarters, Atheeq said action plans get approved and tenders called. Execution of works starts in the third quarter.

"Efforts have been made by the finance department to avoid bunching of expenditure in Q4 with some success. Still, Q4 is the dominant quarter for expenditure," he said.

Public finance professional Madhusudhan B V Rao, however, is not convinced.

"It's understandable if there's huge borrowing in the first two quarters when inflows wouldn't have picked up and the government will be under pressure to start capital expenditure," Rao said.

"To borrow like this in the last quarter means poor planning. It signifies pressure".



Pinching your pockets

After coming to power in 2023, the Siddaramaiah administration has hiked various prices, tariffs and levies: water, milk, power, liquor, fuel, bus tickets, metro fare, stamp duty and property registration fees.

Ballari violence: Post-mortem conducted only once, says HM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday dismissed Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy's claims that two post-mortems were performed on the body of Congress worker Rajashekar Reddy, who died in the violence in Ballari on New Year's Day.

"The doctors who performed the postmortem have clarified that the procedure was performed only once. Politicians, including myself, should think before issuing statements. One should be aware of the impact words can have, and speak responsibly," said Parameshwara.

In a veiled reference at Kumaraswamy, the Home Minister asked, "Have those making these claims about two postmortems witnessed it themselves? I will go by what the doctors have said."

Meanwhile, after doctors at Ballari Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS) confirmed that the postmortem was performed only once, Kumaraswamy demanded that the BIMS Medical Superintendent be subjected to a brain-mapping test. Doubling down on his claims of two postmortems having been performed, Kumaraswamy charged the Congress with using the death of a party worker for political gains.

"I am aware of the lengths the Congress is going to in order to close this case. The BIMS Medical Superintendent has claimed that the postmortem was conducted for three hours. What I want to know is why was a second doctor called in for the procedure? What was the purpose behind asking for another doctor," asked Kumaraswamy.

Death due to bullet piercing chest: PM report

BALLARI, DHNS: The death of the Congress worker in the January 1 riot in Ballari was due to injury caused by piercing bullet in the chest, trauma and profuse bleeding, according to the post mortem report.

The postmortem report, a copy of which was accessed by *DH*, says that a deformed 'wad cup' measuring 1.8 cm in width and 2.5 cm in length and 17 pellets were found in the body. All the injuries on the body are caused before death, according to the report. Sources say that presence of wad and more pellets in the body indicates the possibility of firing from a close range.

Making state bankrupt biggest achievement of CM: Ashoka

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Leader of Opposition R Ashoka on Tuesday said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's biggest achievement is making the state bankrupt and lawless.

Reacting to Siddaramaiah equalling the record of late leader Devaraj Urs as the longest-serving CM, Ashoka said instead of boasting about breaking the record, what Siddaramaiah has achieved as CM, is more important.

"The state has become bankrupt and the financial situation is in poor condition. Borrowings have increased and the state is struggling to pay salaries. Law and order has totally collapsed, for which the latest violence in Ballari is the best example. Incidents of crime and atrocities against women have increased. These are his biggest achievements," he said.

"Instead of how many days one rules the state, what is achieved as CM should be more important. Siddaramaiah must introspect about his achievements as CM," Ashoka said.

To a question on the BJP holding a Bengaluru-to-Ballari padyatra condemning the violence, he said the party was yet to take a call on this.

Ashoka said he met BJP national president J P Nadda and working president Nitin Nabin and explained to them the current political situation in Karnataka. He said the top leaders gave suggestions, which would be discussed with state leaders.

Nabin is likely to visit Karnataka next month and will hold a meeting with the state leaders, Ashoka said.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh presents a portrait made of pulses to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as he equalled Devaraj Urs' record as the longest-serving CM on Tuesday.

HDK's claim misleading, says Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy has misled the people of Karnataka on post-mortem on Ballari violence victim, Rajashekhar.

"The investigating officer made only one application seeking post mortem examination and accordingly the PM was conducted only once. The report will be submitted into the court. Some people in politics are in the habit of doling out lies to cover up their mistakes," Shivakumar said. He was addressing a press meet in Ballari on Tuesday.

The deputy chief minister said that he had obtained information separately from the officials and legislator.

Earlier, Shivakumar met the family members of Rajashekhar and consoled them.

Party will decide his continuation as CM, reiterates Siddu

'I am not in politics to break any record'

MYSURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the Congress high command would decide on his continuation as chief minister for the full term.

"I am not aware of when and what they will decide. We will have to see. But I have confidence in them," he told reporters near his residence in the city on Tuesday.

He expressed satisfaction about his work so far, as he would set a record of being the CM for the longest period of over 2,792 days on Wednesday. When asked about breaking the record of late chief minister Devaraj Urs , he said, "I am not in politics to break any record. It just happened".

The way forward

When asked about his way forward, the chief minister said, "Doing people's work gives me happiness. Politics is all about getting justice for the poor, the Dalits and the backward class communities. Inequality still prevails in society. So, we will fight till they all get justice and equality".

Congress leaders bat for Siddaramaiah's full term

As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah equalled D Devaraj Urs' record of being the longest-serving CM, Congress lawmakers, who are seen as close to him, expressed confidence that he would complete the full five-year term, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

"When he [Siddaramaiah] is confident about completing the term, we're also confident (that he will)," Home Minister G Parameshwara said.

Public Works Minister Satihs Jarkiholi said "it will be good" if Siddaramaiah completed his full term.

Senior Congress lawmaker K N Rajanna said he told Siddaramaiah that he should remain in office till 2028.

"Without Yediyurappa, there's no BJP. Without Deve Gowda and family, there's no JD(S). Without Siddaramaiah, there's no Congress. Siddaramaiah is a mass leader. Congress will get votes if he's in the party. This is my personal opinion," Rajanna, a former minister, said.

K N RAJANNA
Former minister

"Without Yediyurappa, there's no BJP. Without Deve Gowda and family, there's no JD(S). Without Siddaramaiah, there's no Congress.

Companies asking for money to offer internships, allege VTU students

BENGALURU, DHNS

A few companies Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has tied up with to offer internships to the varsity's students are allegedly demanding money from students. In fact, students have further alleged that companies were asking for money even to issue an 'internship completion certificate'.

Given that companies are mandated to pay interning students a stipend, VTU has taken the allegations seriously, and constituted a team to probe the claims made by the students. Members of the VTU's team have been tasked with visiting companies that have allegedly sought money from students, and submit a report compiling its findings.

"When I reached out to one of the companies listed on the VTU's website, the company's representatives informed me I had to pay to get the internship," said one student.

VTU has made it mandatory for all students to complete a six-month internship during either the seventh or eight semester, to help them acquire hands-on experience in their respective domains. Each student will receive nine credits on completion of the internship.

A VTU official alleged that many students had submitted fake internship completion certificates to their colleges. "To prevent such irregularities, VTU insisted that students complete internship at those companies registered with the varsity. To that end, VTU started an online portal where companies offering internship must mandatorily register," said the official, adding that more than 2,500 companies had tied up with the VTU to offer a paid internship to the varsity's students.

A placement officer at a private engineering college said that students' plaints about companies asking for money to offer internships had been relayed to the varsity.

VTU Vice-Chancellor S Vidyashankar admitted that these complaints had been brought to his notice. "Such companies will be blacklisted and will not be part of any of the varsity's programmes," he said.

The VC said there had also been complaints of students failing to show up regularly for work during internship. "A VTU team will verify students' attendance during their visit to companies," he said.

Batting for a dedicated policy for internship, Vidyashankar said, "At least 85,000 students are eligible to get internships each year. But it is impossible for everybody to get opportunity. So, we are convening a meeting with companies to increase number of paid internships. We will request the government to direct the firms to offer internships to VTU students".

Vehicle owner must ensure driver has valid DL: HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld a Mangaluru court's decision to fasten sole liability of a road accident on the management board of a school.

Justice K Manmadha Rao ruled that the vehicle owner is responsible for ensuring that the driver holds a valid and effective driving licence (DL).

He affirmed Rs 5.32-lakh compensation payable by the management of Balmi Primary School to the family of school bus driver Badruddin.

The accident occurred on a rainy day on August 14, 2008, when the school bus plunged into the Phalguni River.

The bus was returning from Ulaibettu to Balma English Medium School when the accident occurred around 9 am. Eleven people, including seven children and Badruddin, who was driving the school bus, died in the accident.

Badruddin's wife and two children approached the Commissioner for Employees' Compensation seeking Rs 13 lakh as compensation. However, the insurer of the school bus opposed the claim, citing violation of policy conditions and contending that the deceased driver did not possess a valid and effective driving licence on the date of the accident, as his licence had expired on June 17, 2008—nearly two months before the incident.

Considering this aspect, the Commissioner rejected the claim against the insurer and ordered the school management to pay a compensation of Rs 5,38,200 with an annual interest of 12% from the date of the accident.

The school management, through its headmaster, challenged this order in the High Court. It argued that it was of the bona fide opinion that the insurance company had to pay the compensation, and hence, it did not appear before the Commissioner for Employees' Compensation.

Justice Rao noted that the insurance company had successfully established the violation of the policy conditions that Badruddin did not have a valid licence to drive the vehicle on the date of the accident.

He cited the Supreme Court judgement in the Beli Ram case, which had reinforced the principle that it is the employer who bears the responsibility to ensure that the driver holds a valid and effective driving licence and that failure thereof constitutes a clear breach of policy conditions, absolving the insurer of liability.

Teachers' & graduates' Council polls: BJP looks to retain 3 seats

But JD(S) wants two out of total four Legislative Council seats

BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Legislative Council election for Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies due this year, the BJP wants to retain three of the total four seats although the saffron party and the JD(S) are willing to field consensus candidates.

In the Core Committee meeting of BJP held on Monday, it was discussed to continue the alliance even for the upcoming elections. However, some of the BJP leaders suggested to retain three seats.

According sources from the BJP, some leaders even expressed that it would be easy to win three of the four seats (two each of Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies) if contested jointly.

However, the JD(S) is planning to demand two seats: Bangalore Teachers' and South East Graduates' Constituencies. Of this, Bangalore Teachers' Constituency is currently represented by Congress' Puttanna and South East Graduates' constituency by BJP's Chidanand Gowda.

"Earlier, even we have won from both the constituencies and now we have eligible candidates. We will ask for these two seats," said a senior leader of the JD(S).

Elections were held in 2020 for the West Graduates' constituency, South East Graduates' constituency, North East Teachers' Constituency, and Bangalore Teachers' Constituency. From the two graduates' constituencies, S V Sankanur and Chidanand Gowda were elected. From the two teachers' constituencies, Shashil Namoshi and Puttanna were elected.

All four were from the BJP but Puttanna quit the saffron party and joined the Congress. Later, he was re-elected from the same constituency as a Congress candidate.

All their terms will end on November 11.

Elections must be held one month before the term expires.

Congress has already announced the list of candidates for all the four constituencies - Puttanna to recontest from the Bangalore Teachers' Constituency; Mohan Limbikai from the West Graduates' Constituency, Shashi Hulikuntemath from South East Graduates' Constituency, and Sharanappa Mattur from the North East Teachers' Constituency.

For the BJP, this election is a matter of prestige as it has to retain its three seats which is a major challenge.

In the 2020 elections, Bangalore Teachers' Constituency was contested by the JD(S). This time too, the same formula is likely to continue. From the JD(S), A P Ranganath and former MLC Ramesh Gowda are aspiring to contest.

The BJP intends to secure the JD(S) support in the remaining three constituencies. For the South East Graduates' constituency, names under discussion include Davanagere's Suresh, party legal cell's convener Vasanth Kumar, and Y A Narayanaswamy, in place of Chidanand Gowda.

In the West Graduates' constituency, names of Lingaraj Patil and Jayateerth Katti, along with sitting MLC Sankanur, are being considered.

In the North East Teachers' constituency, sitting MLC Shashil Namoshi's is being considered.

Last time, the BJP and the JD(S) contested separately in the South East Graduates' constituency.

Mangaluru airport handles record number of passengers

MANGALURU, DHNS: Despite cancellation of many flights, the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) handled 2,27,976 passengers in December last year, which is the second highest monthly number for the third quarter of the fiscal year.

According to a social media post, the airport handled 2,28,009 passengers in October 2025. Among the 2,27,976 passengers handled in December, 1,48,911 were domestic passengers and 79,065 were international passengers. The number of international passengers (79,065) handled in December is the highest ever handled in a month from the Commercial Operation Date (COD) up to December 31.

In December, the airport recorded 1,521 air traffic movements.

TN minister's remarks on lamp-lighting ruling sparks row

CHENNAI, DHNS: TN Minister S Regupathy on Tuesday triggered a controversy after questioning whether a dead body could be cremated anywhere other than a crematorium, while criticising a Madras HC verdict that allowed the lighting of a lamp on a stone pillar.

"A dead body can be cremated only in a crematorium. Can it be cremated elsewhere? Do not change existing customs and practices. Why attempt to create confusion in Tamil Nadu by delivering such a judgment?" he said, drawing sharp reactions from various quarters.

BJP spokesperson Narayanan Tirupathy criticised Regupathy's remarks. "CM MK Stalin should immediately remove him from the Cabinet," he said, adding that ministers should not criticise the courts "like henchmen of a gang".

"If we say dead bodies can only be buried in a graveyard, then why did you fight to bury your leader on the beach?" he asked, in an apparent reference to the late DMK president M Karunanidhi.

Writer Meena Kandasamy also objected to the minister's comments, asking whether he realised that his remarks were hurtful and offensive. "A lamp, a candle, a flame—these are cultural rituals signifying a beginning, embedded in historic memory. Even the literary history of worship at Thiruparankundram goes back to the 2nd-century Sangam text, Paripadal... Tamil cultural & religious practices predate and exist independently of Hindutva appropriation," she said.

'Even Amartya Sen served SIR notice': TMC sharpens attack on EC

Abhishek tells supporters to unmap BJP from Bengal

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The Trinamool Congress on Tuesday sharpened its attack on the Election Commission over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, and alleged that the poll panel had even cast aspersions on the voting right of Amartya Sen.

TMC General secretary Abhishek Banerjee that the Election Commission had served a notice to the economist to appear for a hearing.

"On my way here, I was told that Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen, who had won laurels for our country in the field of economics, has been served with an SIR hearing notice," Abhishek said at a rally at Rampurhat in Birbhum.

The 92-year-old economist, who was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998, was born in Shantiniketan and has been a voter in the state.

He also referred to the similar SIR hearing notices served to celebrity Bengali film star Dev and cricketer Mohammed Shami. "The only way to respond to this insult is by winning in all the 11 state assembly constituencies in Birbhum," he said.

A member of Sen's family said the enumeration form distributed by the EC had been duly filled out and submitted to the concerned booth-level officer.

Sources at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer said the BLO would go to the residence of Sen and collect the relevant documents required for the correction of errors in the enumeration form.

The TMC has been alleging that the EC launched the SIR of electoral rolls only to ensure that the BJP gets an edge in the forthcoming assembly elections.

"Unmap from this state the Bangla Birodhi (anti-Bengal) BJP, which has made the people suffer such ignominy time and again," Abhishek said at the rally.

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee addresses a rally in Birbhum on Tuesday. PTI

Trinamool MP moves Supreme Court over deletion of 58.2 lakh voters in West Bengal

NEW DELHI, DHNS: TMC MP Deriek O'Brien has approached the Supreme Court, claiming that with the Election Commission's SIR exercise in West Bengal, 58,20,898 names were deleted from the electoral rolls without any notice or personal hearing.

His plea urged the apex court to issue a direction to the EC to extend the deadline for submitting claims and objections currently fixed as January 15 and also direct the poll body to forthwith stop issuing instructions for compliance by the BLOs and other officers in the SIR exercise through WhatsApp or other such informal channels and declare all such instructions issued so far as illegal.

The plea contended that the poll body has acted outside the law and followed arbitrary procedures during the SIR exercise.

Elderly people arrive at a centre during a hearing under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Nadia. PTI

"The EC cannot act arbitrarily, capriciously or dehors law, nor can it substitute legally prescribed and set procedures with ad hoc or informal mechanisms," the plea said.

The plea said, "The draft electoral roll was published in West Bengal on December 16, 2025, and 58,20,898 names were deleted, without any notice or personal hearing."

It claimed there has been a precipitous decline from 7,66,37,529 voters after the special summary revision of 2025 to 7,08,16,616 voters on the draft electoral roll.

"This action of the EC is contrary to its own detailed SOP for deletion of entries from the electoral roll issued in writing on 11.08.2023," it said.

EC says ensuring no foreigners on voter rolls is its duty

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Election Commission (EC) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it has the power and competence to undertake a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, besides there is a constitutional duty to ensure that no foreigners are registered as voters.

The submissions were made by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi on behalf of the EC before a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi.

Dwivedi pointed out that all key constitutional functionaries across the three organs of the State must be Indian citizens, citing provisions such as Article 124(3) of the Constitution relating to the appointment of Supreme Court and high court judges.

Referring to constitutional schemes, he said, "The (constitutional) article, when it says citizens, that is something which has to be inquired by the competent authority. What should be the nature, summary etc., that is a different question.... There is a constitutional duty to ensure that on the electoral roll, there should not be any foreigners."

The poll panel is not supposed to respond to political parties' rhetoric, the senior advocate said. "I am not commenting on the political parties, as the Election Commission, our duty is that no foreigner should be there.... It is to be seen that the power is there and the competence is there," he added.

Teen detained for sharing info with Pakistan handlers

CHANDIGARH, PTI: A 15-year-old boy from Pathankot has been detained for allegedly sharing sensitive information with handlers in Pakistan, police said on Tuesday. The teen belongs to the Bari Brahmana area in Jammu and Kashmir, close to Pathankot.

Police received intelligence inputs that the boy was in contact with and providing information concerning the country's security to Pakistani military officers, ISI and frontal organisations running terror modules in that country, said Pathankot Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Daljinder Singh Dhillon.

Punjab Police detained him on Monday, and his questioning is underway, the SSP told reporters in Pathankot.

His mobile phone contains contact numbers of anti-national elements and terrorists based in Pakistan with the intent to spread unrest in India, officials said.

Sensitive information, photos, videos, and espionage-related material concerning Indian Army locations were stored in his phone, and he was reportedly roaming in Punjab's Madhopur area after coming from Jammu and Kashmir.

The SSP said the boy had visited numerous social media platforms and fell into a trap set by Pakistani agencies. He had been in touch with them for the past one year.

Pakistani agents created a clone of the boy's mobile phone, Dhillon said. There was a possibility that Pakistani agencies and handlers took the information live while the teen was recording videos of strategic places, as his phone had been compromised, the SSP said.

BJP seeks to fit allies in Bodo heartland ahead of Assam polls

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The ruling BJP in Assam is trying hard to convince the two allies, Bodo People's Front (BPF) and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL)—the rivals in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)—to remain in the NDA and contest the ensuing Assembly elections in seat-sharing arrangements.

The BTR has 15 Assembly constituencies (out of a total of 126), and Bodo community voters play a crucial role in deciding the fate in at least 10 other seats.

The BJP and UPPL had contested the 2021 Assembly elections under a seat-sharing arrangement, months after it had dumped the BPF as an ally, leading the Hagram Mohilary-led party to join the Congress-led coalition.

UPPL won five Assembly seats in BTR and led the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) with the BJP as an ally until September last year.

The equation in the Bodo heartland, however, changed after the BPF stormed back to power in BTC by defeating the BJP and the UPPL. BJP was quick to get Hagrama's BPF back into the state Cabinet as the party looked back to its popularity in the run-up to the Assembly polls, slated for March-April.

This left the Pramod Boro-led UPPL upset with the party, even reportedly engaging in talks with the Opposition Congress for a possible alliance for the Assembly elections.

Sources in the BJP, however, said the party's central leadership is in favour of having both BPF and UPPL as allies.

"Our central leadership is in talks with both Mohilary and Boro regarding seat-sharing arrangements. We want to work together with both parties so that the two Bodo Accords signed in 2003 and 2020 can be fully implemented," a source said.

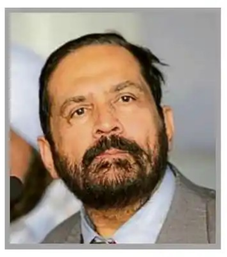
Will not participate in govt formation: Kuki groups

IMPHAL, PTI: An organisation of the Kuki tribe in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Tuesday said the Kuki-Zo people "cannot and shall not" participate in the formation of the state government, reiterating their demand for a separate administrative arrangement.

In a statement, the Kuki-Zo Council said its Governing Council held a meeting in Churachandpur to assess the situation in the state. After deliberations, it unanimously resolved that the demand for a separate administration be reaffirmed in the form of a UT under the Constitution of India, the statement said.

The council also said it decided that the Kuki-Zo people "cannot and shall not participate in the formation of the Manipur government".

From fighter pilot to IOA president: Suresh Kalmadi dies at 81



Suresh Kalmadi (1944-2026)

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Suresh Kalmadi, an ace fighter pilot who took part in the 1965 and 1971 wars and later carved a niche for himself as a businessman, politician and sports administrator, passed away following a prolonged illness in Pune on Tuesday. He was 81.

The soft-spoken Kalmadi was known for his exceptional networking skills. He was a two-time Lok Sabha member from Pune, a four-time Rajya Sabha member and also served as a Union minister.

A towering figure in sports administration for over two decades, Kalmadi served as the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from 1996 to 2011, making him one of the longest-serving heads of the country's apex sports body.

However, his public life was not without controversy, most notably the allegations related to the hosting of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

Roots in Karnataka

Kalmadi was born on May 1, 1944, in Madras to Dr K Shamrao Kalmadi and Shanta Rao Kalmadi. The family traces its roots to Karnataka's Mangaluru.

Kalmadi joined the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, in 1960 and underwent further training at Indian Air Force flying colleges in Jodhpur and Allahabad before beginning his career as a pilot.

He served the Indian Air Force from 1964 to 1974 and took part in the 1965 and 1971 wars. He retired as a squadron leader.

After retiring from the IAF, Kalmadi ventured into business and acquired the iconic Pune Coffee House.

Kalmadi entered politics in the 1970s when NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar was emerging as a key leader. In 1977, he became president of the Indian Youth Congress in Pune and later headed the Youth Congress in Maharashtra from 1978 to 1980.

Later, he served as Minister of State for Railways from 1995 to 1996 in the P V Narasimha Rao government.

In 2010, Kalmadi's name figured in allegations following the conduct of the Commonwealth Games in. His tenure as IOA chief ended in 2011 amid charges of corruption, culminating in his arrest. After his arrest, the Congress high command distanced itself from Kalmadi.

However, in April this year, the Enforcement Directorate filed a closure report in the case, effectively giving him a clean chit.

He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (M.P & C.S)
Old Madras Road, K R Pura Zone-02,
Bengaluru - 560 036
No:BECC/K.R.PU.Z-02/EE/P.R/04/2025-26 Date: 05-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Subject: Regarding postponement of e-Auction short term tender calender of events for Toll collection of pay daily and weekly fair in K R Pura Santhemaidana.

Reference: Office of the Executive Engineer (Project) Short Term Notification No:BECC/K.R.PU. Z-02/EE(P)/PR/04/2025-26 Date:19-12-2025 and 26-12-2025.

With reference to the above subject, the e-Auction short term tender notification as per reference was published for the work of toll collection of pay daily & weekly fair in K R Pura Santhemaidana. Due to technical reasons, the calender of events of the tender is postponed as mentioned below.

Postponed date & Time: 1) The registration date for participation in e-auction is from **29-12-2025** to **15-01-2026.** 2) Commencement of e-auction for online bidding **16-01-2026** at **11:00** am. 3) Last date for concluding e-auction **16-01-2026** at **5:00** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (M.P & C.S)
Bengaluru East City Corporation,
K. R. Puram Zone-02

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-4/e-Tender/2025-26/ 2422, Dated: 05.01.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1)Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following Works Under KRDCL Capital Expenditure for the year 2025-26 Work Indent No.1)30086 ((Restoration of CD on NH-150A - SH-127 Sangam upto Raichur Border from ch.at 37.65 & 37.70 and Construction of storm Water Drain Connecting from SH-15 in Naikal Village at Ch.220.00 to 221.50 (In selected reaches) in yadgir Constituency Shahapur Taluka. Under, 5054 Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited Capital Expenditure For The Year 2025-26) Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Miminimum Rs 105.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:** Civil Class-III & Above **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Date & Time for receipt of queries:** 12.01.2026 (17.30 hrs) **6) Last Date & Time for submission of the tender in e-procurement portal:**16.01.2026 (16.00 hrs) **7) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:**17.01.2026 (16.30 hrs Onwards) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 20.01.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **9) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division: Yadgir. **10) Website Address:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE:Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIP/YDG/456/KSMC&A/2025-26 **PWD Division, Yadgir.**

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-2&3/AE-1&2/TND/2025-26/3433 Date:06.01.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short-Term Tender is invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two cover Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform (KPP-Portal) for the following Package works taken under 15th Finance.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Estimate cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at (1) Mantapa, (2) Nosenuru Anekal Taluk at Bengaluru Urban District (Call-5).	109.00	2.00	5 Months
2	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandiras at (1) Chikkandavadi, Holalkere Tq, (2) Belagur-A, Hosadurga Tq, (3) Dodderi, Challakere Tq, (4) Dummi, Holalkere Tq, (5) Gattihosahalli, Holalkere Tq, (6) Ramajogihalli-B, Challakere Tq, (7) Hosadurga Rural, Hosadurga Tq, (8) Hucchavvanahalli, Hiriyur Tq and (9) Karehalli, Hosadurga Tq in Chitradurga District (Call-7).	488.60	7.50	5 Months
3	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandiras at (1) Aivaranadu, (2) Devachala, (3) Doddatota, (4) Hariharapalladadka,(5) Jalsooru, (6) Kalamakaru, (7) Mupperiya, (8) Nalkuru, (9) Thodikana Sullia Taluk, (10) Bettampadi, (11) Kemmara, (12) Ithoor, (13) Narimogaru Puttur Taluk at Dakshina Kannada District (Call-5).	715.00	11.00	5 Months
4	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandiras at (1) Belthangady-B, (2) Mittabagilu, (3) Venoor, Belthangady Taluk, (4) Iruvail, (5) Maroor Mangaluru Taluk, (6) Kolnadu, (7) Narinagana, (8) Pervai-A, (9) Suribailu, (10) Uli, 11) Vittal-B Bantwalala Taluk at Dakshina Kannada District (Call-5).	602.00	9.10	5 Months
5	Construction of Additional 20 bedded CHC at Examba Chikkodi Taluk at Belagavi District (Call-4)	460.20	6.90	5 Months
6	Repairs and Renovations to New Surgical Block and Staff Quarters of Taluk Level Hospital KGF in Kolar District (call-2).	148.30	2.25	6 Months
7	Up-Gradation of Existing 50 to 100 Bed MCH at K.R.Nagara, Mysuru District (Call-2)	305.00	4.58	9 Months

Calendar of Events: Sl.No.1 to 6
(1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **21.01.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
(2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **22.01.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**
Calendar of Events: Sl.No.7
(1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **07.02.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
(2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **09.02.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer-4,
Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor,
Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru-560011
No: EE-4/GBA/PIU/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 05.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Call-2 (Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal)

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Executive Engineer-4, Project Implementation Unit invites Request for Proposal from interested persons / firms those **who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC)** for the below work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for "Expansion/Widening of narrow water vents for construction of retaining walls, `U' drains, Box drains and culverts/bridges to storm water drains at various locations in Vijayanagara Constituency of South Zone Package South-1" (Project No. 02 and 27). **Amount put to tender (Works) in Lakhs:** 1,424.95, **EMD amount in Rs.:** 50,000.00

Time Schedule / Calendar of events: (1) Tender document may be downloaded through e-portal from: **06.01.2026** **(2)** Pre-bid meeting: **08.01.2026** at **4:00 p.m.** Office of the Chief Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru-560 011. **(3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **14.01.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical bid: **16.01.2026** at **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer-4,
Project Implementation Unit, GBA

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
Deputy Commissioner's Office, Belagavi District.

No. : RB/AJSK/CR/19/2025-26 Dated: 06.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender Document for procurement of Data Entry Operators for Atalji Janasnehi Kendra's in Belagavi District

Under e-Procurement System

Tender Reference	RB/AJSK/CR/19/2025-26
Commencement of issue of Bid document through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka	07-01-2026
Last date for submitting clarification if any	20-01-2026 up to 5.00 PM
Pre bid Meeting	20-01-2025 at 11.00 AM
Last date and time for uploading of tender in e-Procurement platform	23-01-2025 up to 5.00 PM
Time and date of opening of tenders: Technical Bid	27-01-2026 at 11.00 AM
Time and date of opening of tenders: Commercial Bid	30-01-2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible)
Contact Person for queries	Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District Telephone: 0831-2406310 E-Mail: ajskbhoomi @gmail.com
Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for communication	Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District.
EMD Amount	Rs. 3,89,3650/-

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through e-Procurement system only in the manner described under instructions to Tenderers Section I of tender Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.

Sd/-Deputy Commissioner,
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1598/MCA/2025-26 **Belagavi District.**

DECCAN HERALD
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Expanding terror law sets a troubling precedent

The denial of bail for Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam – both accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case – by the Supreme Court of India raises serious questions about the delivery of justice and the practice of democratic rights in the country. The two have been in jail for over five years; the Court ordered the release of five others who were arrested with them. Both have been incarcerated under the draconian Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act (UAPA), the provisions of which violate the spirit and the best norms of democracy. Citing Section 43D(5) of the UAPA, the Court said that when prosecution material taken at face value disclosed a prima facie case, the statutory restrictions on bail must prevail. It said Khalid and Imam stood "on a qualitatively different footing" as compared to the other accused, and so, could not be granted bail. It is a disappointing pronouncement, particularly concerning because the apex court has always protected the citizen who is a victim of prejudiced and vindictive action by the State, and guarded the basic freedoms granted by the Constitution.

The judgment has undermined many principles that the Supreme Court has laid down in the past and prescribed as guidelines for other courts. Its interpretation of the provisions of the law is skewed; the judgment normalises the incarceration of a protester, dissenter or activist by the State, and legitimises authoritarian actions. The UAPA comes with stringent provisions for bail; the judgment has made it more difficult to obtain. With the Court considering what it calls a "hierarchy of participation" – a questionable distinction – for its selective granting of bail, a new ground has been proposed for the denial of bail. In the past, the Court has held that the accused, even in terror-related cases, have the right to bail when there is no likelihood of an early trial. Charges against Khalid and Imam have not been framed. There are about 700 witnesses in the case, and the trial is certain to be prolonged. The Court said the pre-trial incarceration of the two was "substantial", but maintained that it was yet to cross the "threshold of constitutional impermissibility". It said the accused can move for bail upon the expiry of a period of one year from the date of the order. Why prescribe one year to cross the threshold? Is there a legal or constitutional basis for this prescription? The Court's position that the delay in trial does not operate as a "trump card" in favour of the accused helps only the State. It means that the accused would be denied the benefit of the law if the State manages to delay the trial, which it has done.

The Court has accepted the prosecution's argument that Khalid and Imam played a "central and formative" role, while the others had "merely conspiratorial association". This acceptance is not based on evidence presented to and examined by the Court, but on the say-so of the prosecution, which claimed that the riots were coordinated and orchestrated in protest networks and WhatsApp groups. Such "evidence" is inherently weak and should not form the basis of judicial decisions. Though the Court said a bail plea was not the stage for a mini-trial, the turn of events on Monday had the markings of one.

SC's no-bail ruling risks branding of dissent as terrorism, may normalise incarceration without trial

Disturbingly, the judgment expands the definition of terrorism – it says that Section 15 of the Act cannot be "interpreted narrowly to include only acts of blatant violence", but would also include acts that "disrupt services and threaten the economy". According to the judgment, a terrorist act is not confined to the use of explosives, firearms or conventional weapons. The Section could now be applied to acts such as disrupting economic supplies or essential services, and these do not necessarily have to be accompanied by immediate physical violence. This is a dangerous interpretation that goes beyond the text and a normal reading of the law, and may be used by the government to dub any protest or demonstration as an act of terror. Under the broadened scope of this definition, all such movements can be brought within the purview of the tough law. The Court found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the conduct of Khalid and Imam bore a prima facie nexus to a terrorist act – as defined under Section 15 of the Act – as direct participants in orchestrating the conspiracy through speeches, blockades, etc. It would be a travesty of law, justice, and democratic rights if such actions were brought under the ambit of anti-terror enforcement. Courts have, generally, not been happy with laws that shifted the burden of proof to the accused. But this judgment sees even democratic activities as actionable under an anti-terrorism law that demands proof of innocence from the accused. The dangerous implications of such a reading of the law become clearer when it is noted that the UAPA is one of the most misused laws in the country.

In matters of cases that involve the rights of citizens, the Court should rather be on the side of the citizen than with the government. It is unfortunate when the highest court in the country is seen as supporting the government in cases that relate to excesses committed against citizens. It presents more reasons and latitude to override the rights of the citizen. The Court said the right to personal liberty was of seminal importance and that prolonged incarceration was a matter of serious concern. But the concern has not been reflected in the operative part of the judgment. The Supreme Court's judgments are the law. This is a judgment that makes a draconian law more powerful and takes the jurisprudence of freedom and democracy backward. It will hopefully be reviewed.

BLACK GOLD'S MOMENT

The return of the oil conflict

Oil is back at the centre of global power play, disrupting geopolitics and shaping a new energy realism

GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

In a dramatic escalation, Donald Trump's move to choke Venezuela's oil lifelines stunned the world, a reminder that energy power plays can still trigger global upheaval. History suggests that once such instruments are normalised, others will follow – energy coercion rarely remains the privilege of a single power.

When Daniel Yergin described the last quarter of the twentieth century as the "Age of Oil," he was not merely naming a commodity cycle. In his magisterial work *The Prize*, oil emerges as destiny – fuel for modernity, trigger for wars, and the lubricant of power. He ended with a sombre warning: that blood has been spilt for oil, and more will follow. Three decades later, amid breathless talk of decarbonisation and energy transitions, oil has staged an unembarrassed return; not as a relic of the past, but as the fulcrum of contemporary geopolitics.

We were told the future would be green, digital, and post-hydrocarbon. Solar panels would replace pipelines; batteries would dethrone barrels. Yet today's most combustible geopolitical flashpoints are mapped onto oilfields, shipping lanes, sanctions regimes, and energy chokepoints. The language may have changed – "energy security," "supply resilience," "strategic autonomy" – but the logic is old and unforgiving. Oil has returned as the new gold. What is being disrupted is not merely energy markets, but the post-war assumption that power would increasingly be exercised through rules rather than raw leverage.

Consider the war in Ukraine. While the conflict has many layers – sovereignty, NATO expansion, post-Cold War resentments – energy sits at its core. Russia's hydrocarbon wealth underwrites its war economy and shapes Europe's strategic anxieties. Europe's effort to wean itself off Russian oil and gas has redrawn global energy flows, sending crude eastward at discounted prices and tightening markets elsewhere. Energy sanctions have become weapons of war; oil revenues, a measure of battlefield endurance. Ukraine is thus not only a territorial conflict, but a struggle over the energy arteries of Eurasia.

Across the Atlantic, Washington's renewed engagement with Venezuela tells a similar story. For years, Caracas was a pariah – its vast oil reserves trapped under sanctions and mismanagement. As global supply tightened after Ukraine, Venezuelan crude regained strategic relevance. Sanctions were selectively eased; diplomatic channels reopened. The message was unmistakable: values matter, but barrels matter more. Oil does not just power economies; it reorders moral priorities.

In the Middle East, oil has never ceased to be political gravity. Every escalation, whether involving Israel, Iran, or the Gulf, sends tremors through energy markets. The Strait of Hormuz

remains the world's most perilous energy chokepoint, where a single miscalculation could send prices soaring and economies reeling. The shadow war between Iran and the United States, conducted through sanctions, proxies, and cyberattacks, is fundamentally about who controls the terms of energy access in West Asia.

Even the rivalry between the US, Russia, and China is, at heart, an energy triangle. China's rise rests on assured access to hydrocarbons; its Belt and Road Initiative quietly traces energy corridors across Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Russia seeks to monetise its oil and gas eastwards as Western doors close. The US, the world's largest oil producer, wields energy abundance as strategic insulation – less vulnerable to external shocks, more willing to use sanctions as instruments of statecraft.

What makes this moment distinct from the twentieth century is not oil's disappearance, but its entanglement with transition politics. The world is trying to leave oil behind, but cannot function without it. Underinvestment in oil and gas – driven by climate imperatives and ESG pressures – has tightened supply faster than demand has fallen. The result is a market prone to shocks, where conflicts translate swiftly into price spikes. Paradoxically, the energy transition has made oil geopolitics more volatile.

For the global order, this signals a return to resource realism. Multilateralism strains when energy scarcity looms. Sanctions fragment markets into political blocs. Energy nationalism – once thought passé – reasserts itself. Strategic reserves are stockpiled, supply chains re-shored, and alliances recalibrated around energy dependencies.

The challenge for India

India's predicament is acute and revealing. As one of the world's fastest-growing energy consumers and a net importer of oil, India sits at the crossroads of every major energy conflict. High oil prices widen fiscal deficits, stoke inflation, and strain household budgets. Yet India has demonstrated quiet strategic pragmatism – buying discounted Russian oil while maintaining partnerships with the West, deepening ties with the Gulf while navigating tensions with Iran. This is not fence-sitting; it is energy realism.

For India, the return of the oil conflict underscores three imperatives. First, diversification is destiny, not merely in sources, but in fuels. Renewables, nuclear, biofuels, and electric mobility are not climate luxuries; they are geopolitical hedges. Second, diplomacy must remain supple. Energy security is inseparable from foreign policy, and India's ability to talk to all sides is strategic necessity, not moral ambiguity. Third, India must recognise that oil politics will coexist with the energy transition for decades. Planning on the assumption of a rapid, frictionless exit would be a strategic error. The future will be hybrid, contested, and unstable.

Yergin once wrote that oil brings out both the best and the worst in human affairs – great progress and greater greed. That duality has returned with force. Oil is no longer just a fuel; it is a fault line. For fragile economies, volatility now acts like a hidden tax, transmitted through inflation, currency pressure, and social unrest. Even as we speak of green futures, the old black gold continues to cast a long, combustible shadow.

The age of oil never really ends. It merely waits for its moment to return. The security implications of black gold conflict should serve as a cautionary tale for India, one that the government must take seriously.

(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A cup of tea and the world it held

Teashops in Kerala nourished bodies and conversations

K S S PILLAI

Recently, I was on a drive to the nearby tribal district of the Dangs in Gujarat. At 4 o' clock--my usual teatime--I stopped at a roadside teashop to order a cup of tea. What I received, in a small paper cup, was much less than what I would drink at home; the taste was different, and the price exorbitant.

The incident transported me to my schooldays in Kerala and my morning visits to the teashop near my home with my father. The owner was a man named Mohammed, while the proprietors of other teashops in the area professed different religions. But for us customers, what mattered was only the quality of the products.

We often found many of our neighbours at the tea shop--bare-chested, wearing colourful *lungis* or white *dhoties*, with thin towels, *thorthu*, tied around their heads. Most held pages of the morning Malayalam newspaper in their hands. The owner was known to support a particular political party, and the newspaper he stocked echoed the same views. Yet, although the customers owed allegiance to different parties, this never affected friendship among neighbours or their patronage of the shop. Some greeted my father while continuing loud discussion on various topics reported in the newspaper, all the while consuming *dosas* or *idlis* with coconut *chutney* and *sambar*.

The steaming glasses of tea or coffee were primarily without milk, though a few preferred them with milk. The liquids were kept in brass pots on wood-fired hearths--one holding boiling water, the other milk.

The owner or his wife prepared the beverages with practised ease. They poured hot water and milk from separate pots into a large aluminium vessel, added sugar and tea leaves or coffee powder, stirred the mixture, strained it through a cloth filter, and poured it from a height into a glass below. The top of the glass was crowned with froth--bursting bubbles over hot tea or coffee.

Some of their children worked as waiters; others were hired from outside. Most customers lingered even after breakfast, continuing their discussions, before returning home with parcels for the womenfolk and young children. There was ample time to get dressed and reach school well before 10 am, when classes began.

When we rushed home after school, the aroma of *medu vada, parippu vada*, or *unniappam* cooked in coconut oil would waft towards us. The items were placed in a glass-fronted cupboard and handed to customers wrapped in pieces of newspaper. By sunset, the cupboard would be empty.

Some able-bodied men prepares the batter for the next day's *idlis* and *dosas*, grinding the soaked rice, *urad dal*, and other ingredients in a large stone grinder for nearly two hours.

The batter would then be left to ferment overnight in large vessels, ready to be cooked and served the next morning—to men once again busy discussing the news.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

International order is good on paper. In reality, it's might is right

The military operation by the US in Venezuela, leading to the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, is a clear violation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The US has justified the action as a necessity to end the narco-war against it. Maduro, who has been taken to New York, now faces trial in a US court—perhaps the first instance in history of a serving head of state being tried in another country. Several countries, including China, Russia, Iran, and some in Europe and the Americas, have denounced the US action as a violation of international law. However, countries such as Russia and China have themselves committed acts of aggression against other nations and therefore lack the moral authority to question others. The reality is that international law exists largely on paper; in practice, "might is right". Maduro was a dictator, and the people of Venezuela may themselves have wanted his removal.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Efficiency suffers

I refer to 'State outsourcing: A conscience check' (Jan 6). Government initiatives presented as administrative reforms—particularly the outsourcing of personnel to various departments—have undermined the competence and credentials of the youth. This trend has also drawn outsourced personnel towards graft, quick monetary gains, and declining work efficiency and ethical standards. Education and skill development, promised as pathways to opportunity, increasingly appear to be a farce. This dilutes socialist ideals and neglects the egalitarian spirit, ultimately leading to systemic exclusion.

Albert Smith, Bengaluru

Normalising violence

The recent killing of journalist and businessman Rana Pratap Bairagi highlights how violence in Bangladesh is worsening by the day. Such incidents, particularly those targeting minorities and journalists, point to a growing climate of fear and lawlessness. Most worrying is the increasing normalisation of violence in public spaces. Authorities must act urgently to restore order, ensure justice, and guarantee the safety of all citizens.

Armaan Ahmad, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Look, you (the media) are not concerned about development. You are only asking such questions that try to create differences between the two of us (BJP and NCP). But let me make it clear to you that I am fully focused on the municipal elections nowadays...

Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra Dy CM

Ask me no questions, and I'll tell you no fibs.
Oliver Goldsmith

TO BE PRECISE

Rape-murder convict 'god man' on life term gets parole 15th time

IN PERSPECTIVE

India's fiscal pivot: Efficiency or equity?

A prudent balance in devolution will be critical to mending the strained ties between the Centre and states

NAYAKARA VEERESHA

The Sixteenth Finance Commission submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu on November 17, 2025. The report is expected to be tabled before the Parliament in the upcoming budget session in February.

The Commission's recommendations are crucial in the context of strained fiscal relations between the Union and state governments. One of the key arguments is that the efficiency criterion would benefit the fiscally effective/prudent states in gaining their due share of the allocated funds. This looks like a substantive line of reasoning in terms of procedure; however, it is unclear how this could be achieved, considering the wide fiscal and non-fiscal disparities that exist between the Union and state governments.

Economic efficiency is a key indicator/variable to incentivise states that demonstrate effective fiscal management. The efficiency criteria used by the 10th to 15th FCs were largely based on tax effort and fiscal discipline. Among these, fiscal discipline has seen less prominence, except for the 13th FC, which assigned 17.5% in combined weightage. There has been a marked fall in weightage to equity or income distance (the distance between a state's income and that of the state with the highest income): from 70% (during the 11th FC) to 45% (15th FC). This indicates a steady transition in the Commission's approach towards economic efficiency. However, this transition has also met with inconsistency, as the criterion for efficiency has changed during the period between the 10th and 15th commissions.

Economic efficiency, as a criterion, needs to be contextualised based on the allocative efficiency of financial resources. This criterion is based on per capita developmental expenditure, along with revenue generation and prioritisation. What is significant here is the collective efficiency in taxation and the capability to prioritise developmental needs.

In a policy transition that reduces the significance of equity and emphasises efficiency, or fiscal prudence, there are clear pointers to changing parameters that determine the extent of horizontal devolution of funds across the states. However, a change in economic philosophy must complement this – a focus shift, from maximisation of output to maximisation of revenue, among the fiscally underperforming states. The fiscal requirements of states need to be prioritised in allocations. This vertical devolution needs to undergo a reformation, with the involvement of local governments.

The new scheme of fiscal equalisation shall be a composite of priorities among the Union, state, and local governments. Leaving out local governments from the process of overall fiscal devolution negates the spirit of federalism and the principle of subsidiarity. Boadway (2019) proposes, "unconditional formula-based equalisation transfers contribute to effective decentralisation of decision-making to the states". This needs further extension to the local governments in India, in the ratio of 40:30:30 to the Union, state, and local governments. The fiscal guarantee to local governments through a Finance Commission equalisation can effectively deliver economic development and social justice to the citizens.

A tough balancing act

The challenge for the 16th FC is to strike a balance between these two broad criteria and arrive at a rational basis for the devolution of funds. It has to play a significant role in restructuring the strained fiscal relations between the Union and the state governments.

Balancing equity (the model invariably provides larger resource shares for states grappling with higher populations) and efficiency (where states with better fiscal management are incentivised) is the key to this effort. Incentivising states that perform better in fiscal management is critical; however, the path is delicate because it also needs to be balanced with other criteria, such as measures undertaken to stabilise population and to reduce poverty.

These varied considerations present a formidable challenge for the Commission because this is a balancing act critical to the idea of federalism, with major political implications.

The 16th Financial Commission was mandated to present its report covering five years, commencing on April 1, 2026. Its recommendations cover the distribution of taxes between the Union and the states, as well as grants-in-aid to states and other proceeds. Covering the award period of 2026-27 to 2030-31, the report consists of two volumes; while the recommendations are in the first volume, the annexures are accommodated in the second.

India's pathway to balanced Union-state fiscal ties will hinge on a structural shift to its devolution approach. And central to this shift will be the optimum weightage accorded to efficiency and equity; any policy skewed towards the equity consideration risks undermining the principles of economic efficiency.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Symbiosis Law School – Symbiosis International [Deemed University], Pune)

Can merging government schools reverse dwindling enrolment?

KATHYAYINI CHAMARAJ

Despite opposition, the Karnataka government has issued orders to start 700 government schools across the state as 'KPS Magnet Schools' by upgrading selected government schools and merging schools located within a 5-6-kilometre radius into them. The stated aim is to address the problem of small schools with dwindling enrolment and to provide well-equipped schools offering education from the primary level up to PUC at a single location. Activists, however, fear that this will lead to the closure of 7,000 government schools and, in the long run, to the closure of 37,000 schools, as indicated in the government notification.

While few would dispute the need for better-equipped schools, there is strong opposition from the public and educationists to the proposed mergers. The government has promised to provide transportation, but parents remain unconvinced, as several villages lack proper roads. They fear that children will be forced to walk long distances, with girls being particularly affected.

The government's solution of merging schools appears to address the symptoms rather than the root causes of the problem. If parents are increasingly choosing to send their children to private schools, the government must introspect on the reason behind this shift. One of the reasons given is that parents are choosing English-medium education. But is that the only reason?

Since 2013, nearly 3,000 government schools have been closed, while about 3,500 private schools have been granted permission in recent years. As one activist points out, where once 500 students attended the lone government-run village school, today only 37 remain, as eight private schools have come up in the same village. How did so many private schools mushroom? According to experts, the reason is that political leaders, who run private schools, are ruling the roost in the government.

Compounding this is the problem of vacancies of regular government teachers, which is 79,000, with just 51,000 guest teachers filling the gap. This is despite the ruling party's manifesto before the 2023 elections promising to fill all government vacancies within the first year.

As many as 29% of schools function with a single teacher, and 21.2% of children are enrolled in such schools. Often, one teacher is required to handle more than 30 children across classes 1 to 5, inevitably leading to poor learning outcomes. This is in clear violation of the Right to Education Act, which mandates at least two teachers for a lower primary school with enrolment of up to 60 students.

The poor infrastructure of schools is the next impediment. Only 23% of schools in Karnataka are fulfilling the 13 facilities required under the RTE Act. The department's website says that 2,039 schools have no boys' toilet, 701 lack a girls' toilet, 16,519 lack playgrounds, and 4,755 lack compound walls. Is it any wonder if parents are turning away from such schools?

In the long-pending *suo motu* PIL (WP 15768/2013) in the High Court of Karnataka, the government has been asked to provide the budgets and timeframes required to fulfil all RTE norms in all schools. In its response, the government has stated, "Proposals are made every year based on the available funds allocated. Hence, the total requirement of infrastructure is not considered during the budget proposals, and "if sufficient funds are allocated, the entire infrastructure ... can be fulfilled by the next 5 to 10 years." This, when all RTE norms were supposed to be fulfilled by 2015, and it is now 10 years after that deadline.

This is the result because the state's budget for education has been consistently less than the national average and is at 10.8% this year when the national average is 15%. This, from a well-developed state with the highest per capita income in the country.

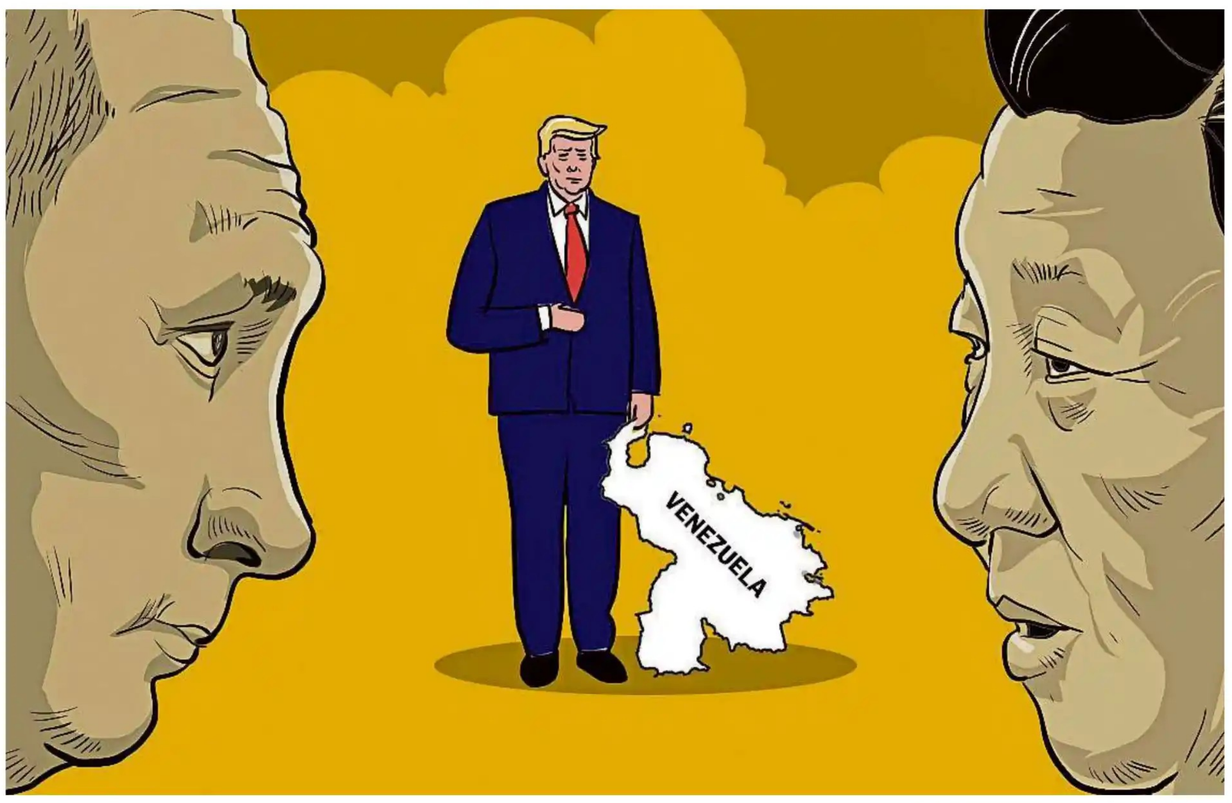
While the State Education Policy is dormant, a report submitted in 2017 on how to rejuvenate government schools, placed in the Assembly by the CM with the promise to implement it, has been forgotten.

At a recent discussion organised by the All-India School Education Committee (AISEC), protestors against the merging of schools said that their village school is a cultural icon of the village, and all villagers participate in its cultural activities, which builds solidarity among them. A distinguished thinker said, "Had I not got free education at a government school, I would have ended up just grazing cows or sheep in the village." The feeling was that those who study only in English lose their cultural roots, while education in the local language in a local school enhances their rootedness in local culture and promotes critical thinking on societal issues. That the government school is a vehicle for building an inclusive society and needs to be preserved was the dominant opinion.

The indifference towards education as a government duty by those in power is the cause of the government school system losing its importance and credibility, was the overarching feeling. Allowing full-scale privatisation of a public good such as the right to education cannot be the hallmark of a welfare state. So, should the government be focusing on removing the current deficiencies in the government school system before deciding that merging the schools is the only answer?

(The writer is the Executive Trustee of CIVIC-Bangalore)

While both countries were allied with Nicolás Maduro, the US attack could give them justification to use force in other spheres



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Trump's foray into Venezuela could embolden Russia, China

ANTON TROIANOVSKI

After attacking Venezuela and seizing its head of state, President Donald Trump said Saturday that the country had been "hosting foreign adversaries" and asserted that "American dominance in the Western Hemisphere will never be questioned again."

His remarks appeared to be a broadside against Russia and China, which both built close ties to Nicolás Maduro, the captured Venezuelan leader. But in fact, there was also plenty in Trump's words and deeds that Beijing and Moscow could get behind.

Trump's stunning assault on Venezuela has ushered in new uncertainty around the globe, with allies and adversaries alike scrambling to reckon with a superpower ready to use force in the service of a transactional, might-makes-right foreign policy.

For the two countries long seen as America's chief adversaries, Russia and China, that uncertainty is tinged with opportunity, foreign policy analysts said.

"If we have the right to be aggressive in our own backyard," said Fiona Hill, a Russia expert at the Brookings Institution, "why can't they?"

Hill was the senior director for European and Russian affairs at the White House during part of Trump's first term. In spring 2019, she told a congressional hearing later that year, Russia quietly signalled it was ready to cut loose its ally Maduro in exchange for the United States' stepping back from Ukraine.

"You want us out of your backyard," the informal Russian message went, in Hill's telling. "We, you know, we have our own version of this. You're in our backyard in Ukraine."

Hill said she went to Moscow at the time to reject the idea. Russia never confirmed Hill's account, but its RIA state news agency reported in April 2019 that her meetings in Moscow "revealed serious, deep contradictions and significant differences" regarding Venezuela.

Now, Russia could well have more luck with such a geopolitical swap, given that Trump's rhetoric "shows that everything can be traded," she said in an interview on Monday.

"It gives them the opportunity to try it again," she said.

So far, China and Russia have condemned the U.S. attack on Venezuela, but they have not threatened to defend their ally.

At an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Monday, Russia and China demanded the release of Maduro and his wife, and called for a halt to any further military action by the United States.

China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, said Sunday that no country could "act as the world's police," without mentioning the United States, according to Reuters. Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vasily Nebenzya, said, "The American global gendarme is attempting to rear its head once again."

But some in Moscow went so far as to offer hints of praise for Trump's attack.

Dmitry Medvedev, the former Russian president, told the country's Tass news agency that Trump "and his team have been rigidly defending his country's national interests, both political (with Latin America being the backyard of the United States) and economic (give us your oil and other natural resources)."

The restraint was striking given the investment in Maduro's rule by both China and Russia. Russia sent nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela as a show of force in 2018 and ratified a "strategic partnership" with Venezuela just last October, looking to the country as a platform for projecting its influence across Latin America. China upgraded its ties to an "all-weather" friendship when Maduro visited in 2023 and lent more than $100 billion to the country over the past quarter-century, largely in a bid for access to Venezuelan oil.

But in the past year, the calculus for both Moscow and Beijing in what they stand to gain and lose in taking on the United States has been changing quickly. Both countries are aware that the consequences of antagonizing Trump can be severe, while the advantages of flattering him appear significant.

"Both Russia and China want to prioritize manipulating Trump to achieve more important interests for themselves," said Tong Zhao, a specialist on strategic security issues at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

For President Xi Jinping of China, the priorities appear to include a further relaxation of U.S. export controls and gaining more freedom of action in the South China Sea and beyond. After facing a potentially devastating trade war with the United States early last year, China secured a one-year truce with Trump in October and gained access to some advanced American computer chips in December. The Chinese leader is now expected to host Trump in Beijing in April.

Maduro's fall comes with silver linings for Beijing, said Ryan Hass, a Brookings Institution scholar who was the China director on the National Security Council in the Obama administration. Having more U.S. military assets devoted to Latin America rather than Asia is beneficial; so is the increase in Venezuelan oil production that Trump has promised, given that China is the world's largest importer of fossil fuels.

And then there's the legitimizing effect for any future actions that violate international law, including against Taiwan.

America under Trump "has allowed itself to be seen as indistinguishable from China and Russia in its willingness to break rules in the service of its own narrow interests," Hass said. "So it removes a degree of pressure on China in that regard."

For his part, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been silent in the face of Trump's seizure of Maduro, whom he hosted at the Kremlin just last May. The silence is especially striking because of the Russian leader's anger in the wake of other Western interventions, such as NATO's strikes in Libya in 2011.

But for Putin, the goal in staying in Trump's good graces is clear: To convince the United States to deliver a Russian victory in Ukraine.

"The Russians probably think that as unhappy as they are with what happened," said Hanna Notte, an expert on Russian foreign policy, "it is an acceptable price to pay if they come out on top in Ukraine."

Putin achieved an end to three years of diplomatic isolation by the United States with his summit with Trump in Alaska in August. His concrete gains from humouring Trump have so far been more limited than Xi's, with the White House still appearing unwilling to force Ukraine to capitulate to all of the Kremlin's demands.

Notte, an analyst at the James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, California, pointed out that Putin has sought to avoid antagonizing Trump even though the United States has become more involved in parts of the former Soviet Union, including the South Caucasus and Central Asia, that the Kremlin considers part of its post-Soviet sphere of influence. And Russian reticence to take on Trump over Venezuela might also stem from the simple fact that there was little Moscow could have done to stop him.

Even as Putin stayed out of the spotlight, Medvedev, one of Russia's most publicly hawkish officials, gave voice to the Kremlin's pragmatism.

"Let's put it bluntly," he told the *Tass* news agency, referring to the United States, "now they have no grounds, even formally, to reproach our country."

"The United States took such action at a time when China's delegation was visiting Venezuela. For China, it is very embarrassing," said Wu Xinbo, dean of the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai. He said that the attack would affect relations between Washington and Beijing.

That it took place during the Chinese delegation's visit also pointed to a potential failure of China' intelligence services and its diplomats, said Ja Ian Chong, an associate professor of political science at the National University of Singapore.

The New York Times

How silence fuelled Karbi Anglong fire

GAURAV GAUTAM SAHA

The fires in Karbi Anglong did not erupt from sudden rage—they flared up from a broken constitutional promise that tribal lands would remain in tribal hands. When that promise breaks, so does faith in the Constitution itself. A second failure lies within the first. On December 22, 2025, when police removed several hunger strikers for medical care, a simple, truthful government statement could have prevented what followed. It did not come. Within hours, a mob had torched a house. Within two days, at least two people were dead.

This is a story about what happens when governments fail to communicate at moments when communication matters most.

The Karbi Anglong encroachment crisis began when approximately 7,184.7 acres of protected tribal grazing reserves fell under illegal occupation. In February 2024, when KAAC issued eviction notices, settlers challenged the order in the Gauhati High Court, which imposed an interim stay that has persisted for nearly two years, leaving tribal communities waiting indefinitely, while the government allegedly pursued no additional legal remedies.

On the early morning of December 22, police removed nine hunger strikers from Phelangpi for medical evaluation at Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH)—a decision that was widely misrepresented as "arrests", and the authorities concerned failed to communicate otherwise immediately.

Within hours, misinformation spread on social media: protesters believed their leaders were being jailed, social media and messaging apps circulated distorted and doctored claims, and anger mounted. By afternoon, KAAC CEM Tuliram Ronghang's ancestral house had been torched. By December 23, violence had left at least two people dead and over 45 injured.

According to the situational crisis communication theory (SCCT), crises escalate when organisations fail to be "first responders" to information. Silence—especially in polarised contexts—creates a vacuum that misinformation fills, often with the worst interpretations.

What should have happened: Within 30 minutes of the removal of strikers, the government should have issued a statement such as, "Nine hunger strikers are being taken to GMCH for medical evaluation. This is standard protocol. We support their right to protest."

Instead, silence spoke. And when official communication finally came from Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and KAAC CEM Tuliram Ronghang, it came after the fire and emphasised legal constraints: "We cannot evict without court orders."

But this reveals a deeper failure. For nearly two years, the government remained silent on why the High Court stay had not been challenged and why tribal communities were left waiting indefinitely. Studies show that organisations that wait to communicate until forced by events suffer reputation damage that extends far beyond the crisis itself.

In the absence of timely, authoritative messaging, the "arrests" narrative spread. Real-time government communication could have stopped false narratives in their infancy. With no clear government statement on the medical nature of the pickups, the crisis was interpreted through ethnic lenses rather than constitutional ones.

The real issue—illegal encroachment on tribal lands that were protected under the Sixth Schedule—was obscured by mistrust and rumour. How does the government rebuild trust?

- Commit publicly to implement NCST findings. Tribal organisations have documented 7,184.7 acres of encroachment over years, and a transparent response is essential.
- Explain the High Court process. The government should clarify why the interim stay has persisted, outline plans to approach higher courts if needed, and acknowledge that indefinite delays contradict constitutional intent.
- Host regular KAAC meetings explaining eviction status to tribal communities directly. They should be briefed in real time on legal and administrative developments, not discover them later through rumours.

Why does this matter beyond Karbi Anglong? India's Sixth Schedule was designed to protect tribal self-governance. If these protections erode not because the law is weak but because governments cannot enforce or communicate about them effectively, the entire framework risks losing legitimacy. Tribal communities across the Northeast are watching. If Karbi Anglong shows that constitutional promises can be indefinitely delayed through technicality and silence, faith in constitutional solutions will diminish.

The fires may have died. But the deeper question remains: has the government learned that transparency, timeliness, and empathy in crisis communication are not optional niceties but constitutional necessities? Karbi Anglong's future depends not just on court orders and eviction drives, but on whether the government can finally communicate to tribal communities that their constitutional rights matter. That communication should have begun long before December 22. It is not too late to start now!

(The writer is a communication specialist and a socio-political commentator)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Statute review: MPs call for national debate

New Delhi, January 6
A strong plea for a close review of the Constitution was made today in the Lok Sabha by Mr. D. C. Goswami (Cong), while moving the Motion of Thanks to President for his address to Parliament. Mr. Goswami referred to the Prime Minister's statement that a national debate was necessary on the question and said that Parliament itself should initiate such a debate. It was time to consider whether the present Constitution was capable of withstanding the complex international and internal pressures, he said.

25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

'Help India become major global power'

New Delhi, Jan 6
The Prime Minister, Mr A B Vajpayee, today called upon the overseas Indians to play an important role in helping India as a major global player and a knowledge super power. "We do not merely seek investment and asset transfer. What we seek is a broader relationship; in fact a partnership among all children of Mother India so that our country can emerge as a major global player," he said while inaugurating the sixth convention of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) here.

OASIS | S RADHA PRATHI

The sacred rhythm of the winter

It is winter and most of us want to snuggle deeper into our warm bed. But are you aware that this season is early morning for the pantheon of thirty-three crores of Hindu Gods? Ancient Indians believed that when the sun shone on the stellar constellation of Sagittarius the *Brahma Muhurtham* set in, marking the dawn in the day of the Gods which stretches out as a month in the life of mere mortals.

The *Dhanur Maasa* or *Maargazhi* which falls between mid-December and mid-January has been celebrated in a very unique manner in the south of India. Traditionalists get up before the crack of dawn, bathe and cleanse themselves and offer prayers to the Gods. Young women, showcase their talent by drawing beautiful *rangolis* outside their homes. It is the month when classical music and dances ensconce the atmosphere in the wee hours of the morning.

Temples open their doors way before the first ray of the sun appears in the horizon. Earthen lamps are lit at the doorsteps of temples and homes lending warmth to the misty hours of dawn. Sweet hot *pongal* generously laced with *ghee* is given as *prasadam*.

The *Thiruppavai* composed in Tamil by the saint poetess Aandal are sung during this period of time to invoke the blessings of Lord Vishnu.

As usual Indian festivities and celebrations have a hidden agenda of practical relevance which blankets the core content of the event.

The coldest period in the tropical region is celebrated as a month-long festival to help people practise the wisdom of the saying, "Early to bed early to rise, makes a man healthy wealthy and wise."

If you closely examine the ritual of rising early that is followed during this season it will not be difficult for you to realise that the cold-water bath tones up our system and builds our immunity, while the music soothes our nerves, the *rangolis* appeal to our aesthetics,the sweet boosts our energy levels and the visit to the temple metamorphoses as our morning walk.

In other words, the time-tested secret of good living and all-round success which lies in rising with the lark has been felicitated by our ancestors to help us have a headstart towards a productive day even through the chills!

Right to speedy trial not eclipsed by gravity of offence: Supreme Court

Says prolonged incarceration converts pretrial detention into punishment

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Holding that the right to speedy trial, enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution, is not eclipsed by the nature of the offence, the Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed a bail plea by Arvind Dham, a former promoter and non-executive chairman of Amtek Auto Ltd, in a money laundering case.

"Prolonged incarceration of an undertrial, without commencement or reasonable progress of trial, cannot be countenanced, as it has the effect of converting pretrial detention into a form of punishment," a bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe said.

Setting aside Delhi HC's order of August 19, 2025, refusing bail to Dham, the court said, economic offences, by their very nature, may differ in degree and fact, and therefore cannot be treated as a homogeneous class warranting a blanket denial of bail.

In this case, FIRs were registered on December 21, 2022, at the instance of IDBI Bank and Bank of Maharashtra, alleging fraud to the extent of Rs 385.35 crore and Rs 289 crore, respectively.

On March 21, 2023, the Enforcement Directorate registered two ECIRs alleging laundering of proceeds of crime.

Examining his plea, the bench said, the court has to take into account the object of the special act, the gravity of offence and the attending circumstances along with period of sentence in such cases.

The court noted that the maximum sentence that can be imposed on the appellant is seven years. The appellant has been in custody for approximately 16 months and 20 days.

There are 210 witnesses to be examined and there is no likelihood of trial commencing in the near future, the bench said.

"The continued incarceration in such circumstances, particularly where the evidence, which is primarily documentary in nature, is already in custody of the prosecution, violates the right of the appellant to speedy trial," the bench held.

The court highlighted that it was well settled that if the state or any prosecuting agency has no wherewithal to provide or protect the fundamental rights of an accused to have a speedy trial, then they should not oppose the plea for bail on the ground that the crime committed is serious.

Day after gas leak, fire still rages at ONGC oil well in Andhra

HYDERABAD, DHNS: For the second consecutive day, a massive gas blowout at ONGC's Mori-5 well in Andhra Pradesh's Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district continued to rage, though officials noticed a gradual reduction in flame intensity since Monday.

On Monday, flames soared over 100 feet high, triggering panic in surrounding villages.

Senior management from ONGC, including Director (Technology & Field Services) Vikram Saxena from Delhi, and experts from the Crisis Management Team, will lead the well-control operation.

Excavation work has been completed to create a temporary canal connecting a nearby irrigation source to the site, enabling deployment of high-capacity firewater pumps. The pumps have reached the well site, and placement activities are underway. A comprehensive blowout control plan has been finalised, with officials reporting a gradual reduction in flame intensity and size.

"The team has also managed to redirect the flame vertically. Air quality, noise levels, and nearby water bodies are being continuously monitored to minimise environmental impact," said a senior ONGC official.

Irregularities in ghee sale at Sabarimala under probe

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Amid the deepening mystery surrounding the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold heist, irregularities in the sale of ghee prasada at the hill shrine have come under scrutiny.

The vigilance wing of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the temple, has detected a shortfall in revenue from the sale of ghee through temple counters.

While reports suggested that a shortfall of around Rs 16 lakh had been detected so far, TDB sources told *DH* that the vigilance inquiry was still ongoing. TDB president K Jayakumar said no major irregularities had come to his notice so far.

According to sources, fresh irregularities were found in the sale of ghee prasada packets to devotees through temple counters during the ongoing pilgrimage season. Discrepancies were noticed between the funds collected and the total number of packets sold.

The Sabarimala gold heist has already caused considerable political damage to the LDF government in Kerala, with CPM leaders having been arrested in the case. A former minister and several other LDF leaders are also under the scanner. The mystery has further deepened with a suspected antique smuggler also coming under the purview of the investigation.

The Congress-led UDF, which is believed to have benefited from the Sabarimala issue in the recent local body elections, is now planning to raise it as a major campaign issue ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections. The BJP is also attempting to capitalise on the issue by organising demonstrations.

Against this backdrop, the alleged irregularities in ghee sales could further intensify political attacks against the LDF government.

Hair patch row: Woman accuses husband of deception, dowry harassment in UP

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Hiding his baldness at the time of marriage allegedly cost a man dearly after his wife lodged a police complaint claiming she was misled into believing that the "thick hair" on his head was real, when it later turned out to be a hair patch.

The woman, identified as Lavika Gupta, a resident of Greater Noida, also accused her husband and others, including her in-laws, of assault, dowry demands and attempting to force her to smuggle drugs.

A case has been registered at Bisrakh police station, police sources said on Tuesday.

Lavika married Sanyam Jain, a Delhi resident, in January 2024. She alleged that after the marriage, she discovered that Sanyam was bald and had used a hair patch to conceal it.

Sanaym allegedly also lied about his education and salary. "Sanyam claimed he was a commerce graduate, but had studied only up to Class 12," she said in her complaint. He also claimed to earn Rs 18 lakh per annum, though his actual salary was much lower, she alleged.

Lavika also claimed that during a post-marriage trip to Thailand, Sanyam attempted to force her to smuggle drugs into India.

She alleged that her husband assaulted and blackmailed her, threatening to make her private photographs public if she did not meet his demand for more dowry.

Police said a case has been registered against Sanyam and four others under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 85 (cruelty by husband or relatives), Section 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), Section 351 (criminal intimidation), Section 316 (criminal breach of trust) and Section 115 (assault). Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act have also been invoked. Further investigation is underway, an officer said.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHAT'S WRONG, BOSS?
ARRGH! THIS ONLINE ORDERING FOR NEW GLASSES IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!!
I'M TRYING TO CHOOSE A SPIFFY NEW LOOK FOR FALL
WELL, THAT'S CERTAINLY A GOOD SELECTION!
Specmania - Style 3

Hagar The Horrible

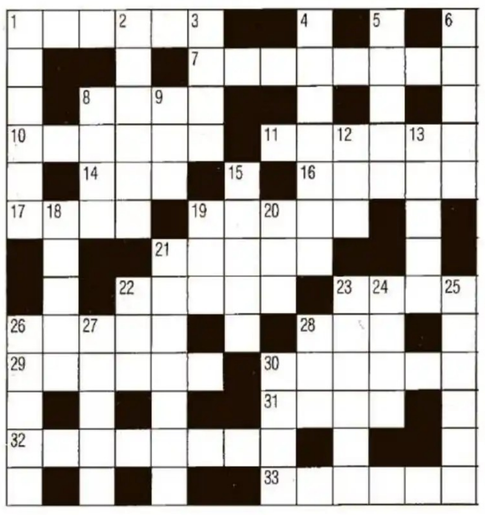
MY STOMACH IS EMPTY AND THE PANTRY IS EMPTY!
THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
IT WOULD BE MORE UNBELIEVABLE IF YOUR STOMACH WAS FULL AND THE PANTRY WAS FULL!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12326



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 In the event, an equestrian garment? (6)
7 In this case, Stan's in a nice mess! (8)
8 Theatrical people having a fling? (4)
10 Might such magazines be termed revealing? (6)
11 Rob of a woolly coat (6)
14 Always five short (3)
16 Accepted one weekend in ten (5)
17 Heartlessly deluded by a document (4)
19 Harbour master? (5)
21 The Italian man about town! (5)
22 One who doesn't drink still has to pay out for food (5)
23 Something afoot in the back of the car (4)
26 As a broadcaster, could be worse (5)
28 Give voice to, afresh (3)
29 Move to central Acton with a joker companion (6)
30 Fame, in certain ways, can be worn out! (6)
31 The kind of room a chanteuse needs? (4)
32 News from part of Kabul, is admitted (8)
33 Where to leave the car keys and change gear (6)

DOWN
1 Roughly broken horse in carved jade (6)
2 Rang Al in deep distress! (6)
3 Ceremony one can tire of? (4)
4 Possibly list the weight of cheese (7)
5 Food fish with a funny nose and a duck's tail (5)
6 Desire to accept me into a country (5)
8 Indian credit notes (4)
9 Teacher said to go in a circle (3)
12 Dine in a companionable atmosphere (3)
13 Something to play when there's little room for love (5)
15 Flags where a county lacks employment (5)
18 Provide with a source of endless wonder (5)
19 The hole an orchestra may be in (3)
20 Put those eggs down! (3)
21 Progressed in a graceful curve in the warm sea (7)
22 Whipped as a dog, one may be a cat! (3)
23 Not exactly butter, but famously fat in fiction (6)
24 Notes may be blown out of it (4)
25 Tip-top line of approach causing confusion (6)
26 Remnants of one vessel within another (5)
27 Royal testaments? (5)
28 Students' study? (3)
30 Called for a peeled orange? (4)

ACROSS
1 Objective (6)
7 Forefather (8)
8 Of above average height (4)
10 Baby's soft shoe (6)
11 Deduction, discount (6)
14 Observe (3)
16 Evaluates (5)
17 Otherwise (4)
19 Heathen (5)
21 Student (5)
22 Cloth made of flax (5)
23 Frame of mind (4)
26 Shout applause (5)
28 Cat's foot (3)
29 Bob Marley's music (6)
30 Tranquil (6)
31 Dry (4)
32 Set of bones (8)
33 Liveliness, vitality (6)

DOWN
1 Threefold (6)
2 Pointed beard (6)
3 Story (4)
4 Common (7)
5 Small Eurasian mammal (5)
6 Star sign (5)
8 Chuck (4)
9 Boy's name (3)
12 Forbid (3)
13 Musical speed (5)
15 Write on this (5)
18 Flexible, supple (5)
19 Play on words (3)
20 Alcoholic spirit (3)
21 Corsairs (7)
22 Limb (3)
23 Of the sea (6)
24 Was indebted to (4)
25 Dull and depressing (6)
26 Collision (5)
27 Wading bird (5)
28 For every (3)
30 Of sound mind (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12325

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Sheaf 6, Hitch 9, Removed 10, Trace 11, Rolls 12, Pearl 13, Re-adily 15, Tit (rev.) 17, Isle 18, Scorch 19, D-ale-k 20, Ho.-axed 22, Burr 24, Tan 25, Mer-ited 26, Slain 27, Pinta 28, Stout 29, Aintr-ee 30, C-harm 31, Trunk.
DOWN: 2, Horses 3, Ar-cad-e 4, Fee 5, Honey 6, H-err-ick 7, I-dol 8, Celtic 12, P-lead 13, Right 14, Alban 15, Trout 16, T.-Hird 18, Seven 19, Declaim 21, O-a-fish 22, B-it-ter 23, Re-turn 25, Mitt-Y 26, Star 28, Set.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Blast 6, False 9, Poultry 10, Adder 11, Eerie 12, Times 13, Let down 15, Fib 17, Eros 18, Bogota 19, Broom 20, Abseil 22, Fund 24, Lot 25, Bemuses 26, Sally 27, Fever 28, Sugar 29, Tractor 30, Posse 31, Never.
DOWN: 2, Ladder 3, Speeds 4, Tor 5, Plain 6, Freedom 7, Ayes 8, Spirit 12, Twirl 13, Legal 14, Toast 15, Focus 16, Bands 18, Bogey 19, Bizarre 21, Bolero 22, Future 23, Negate 25, Black 26, Sets 28, Son.

◆SU-DO-KU-6797◆

						4	5	
	8		4					2
1	3		2				9	
	5				6			9
8								3
9			1				4	
	9				4		1	7
5					8		2	
	6	1						

hard

7	1	3	9	8	4	2	6	5
5	6	8	1	3	2	4	9	7
4	2	9	5	6	7	8	1	3
1	8	2	4	5	9	3	7	6
6	4	5	7	2	3	9	8	1
9	3	7	6	1	8	5	2	4
2	5	6	3	9	1	7	4	8
3	9	4	8	7	6	1	5	2
8	7	1	2	4	5	6	3	9

SOLUTION TO 6796

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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L1	C3	X8	I1	Y4	A1	V4	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
C3	A1	S1	A1	S1	O1	R1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
S1	N1	O1	E1	E1	K5	L1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
G2	L1	O1	O1	I1	B3	Y4	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

R1	H4	Y4	T1	H4	M3	S1	RACK 1 =	72
E1	N1	E1	M3	I1	E1	S1	RACK 2 =	59
F4	U1	M3	A1	R1	I1	C3	RACK 3 =	92
B3	A1	I1	T1	E1	R1	S1	RACK 4 =	59

PAR SCORE 185-195 JUDD'S TOTAL 282

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

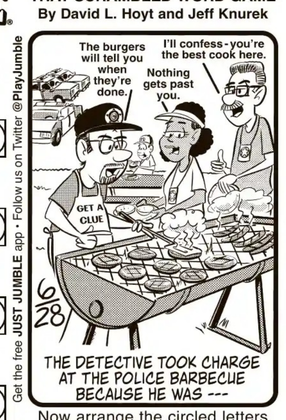
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIDTI

ARGDU

GNGONI

LLGBAO


The burgers will tell you when they're done.
Nothing gets past you.
I'll confess - you're the best cook here.
GET A CLUE
6/28
THE DETECTIVE TOOK CHARGE AT THE POLICE BARBECUE BECAUSE HE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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Yesterday's Jumbles: TWINE UNION GROGGY DIVERT
Answer: They thought 10 acres would be big enough for their plant nursery, but they were — OUTGROWING IT

HITORI-3251

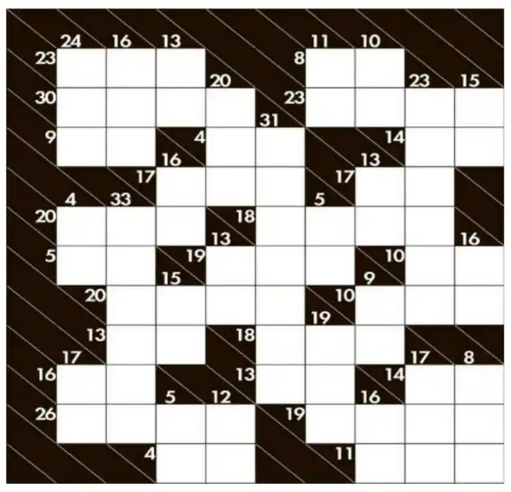
1	8	6	4	5	5	7	5
8	8	2	5	1	7	5	6
7	3	2	5	7	2	1	5
2	5	7	1	3	5	5	4
5	5	7	7	7	4	3	2
3	4	5	7	6	5	8	1
6	7	8	2	4	1	5	3
5	3	3	5	7	6	2	8

SOLUTION TO 3250

■	4	6	■	3	8	■	2
8	■	7	4	■	5	1	3
6	2	3	1	8	■	4	7
■	6	■	8	■	1	2	■
1	■	5	7	6	■	3	8
7	8	2	3	■	6	■	5
2	3	■	6	5	4	8	1
■	7	1	■	2	■	5	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3251



SOLUTION TO 3250

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3789

■			1	9	6			■
	■		3				■	1
		■			8	7		
		1	5		2		9	
				■				
			■		3	6	2	
		■	4	2	1	■	3	
	■		8				■	
1			6			4		8

SOLUTION TO 3788

2	7	3	8	4	6	9	1	5
1	8	6	5	9	3	7	2	4
5	4	9	1	7	2	6	8	3
8	9	7	3	2	4	5	6	1
3	6	5	9	1	8	2	4	7
4	2	1	7	6	5	8	3	9
7	5	8	6	3	1	4	9	2
6	3	4	2	5	9	1	7	8
9	1	2	4	8	7	3	5	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

B'desh protesters demand cancellation of work permits for Indians

Demonstrators seek extradition of Hadi killers suspected to be hiding in India

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, PTI

The party of slain Bangladeshi student leader Sharif Osman Hadi on Tuesday launched a day-long rally in Dhaka, demanding justice for his killing and calling, among other measures, for the cancellation of work permits of all Indians residing in Bangladesh.

As part of its four-point charter of demands, Inqilab Moncho also sought the repatriation of the alleged killers, claiming they had taken refuge in India, and warned that Dhaka should approach the International Court of Justice if New Delhi refuses to hand them over, The Dhaka Tribune reported.

Indian authorities have dismissed claims that the suspects crossed into India, saying there is no evidence of any illegal border movement.

The 'March for Justice' began around 11.30 am from Shahbagh, with activists travelling in 10 pickup vans and on foot through several major intersections, including Science Lab, Mohammadpur, Mirpur-10, Uttara, Bashundhara, Badda, Rampura and Jatrabari, before returning to Shahbagh in the evening, organisers said.

Participants said the protest aimed to draw attention to what they described as a "lack of progress" in the investigation into Hadi's killing. They demanded that all those involved—including the shooter, planners, accomplices and those who allegedly sheltered them — be brought to trial before the February 12 parliamentary elections.

During the march, demonstrators raised slogans such as "We will not let Hadi's blood go in vain".

The protesters also demanded that alleged "fascist accomplices" within the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence be identified, arrested and prosecuted, the report said.

Hadi, 32, a prominent youth leader who rose to national prominence during the July–August 2024 mass protests that led to the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, was shot in the head on December 12 during an election campaign in Dhaka. He was also a parliamentary candidate for the February 12 elections. He was airlifted to Singapore for treatment but died on December 18.

His killing has triggered fresh political unrest in Bangladesh and strained ties with India, after some groups alleged an Indian link to the crime.

New Delhi has strongly rejected the allegations, calling them a "false narrative".

"We have rejected the false narrative that has been projected in Bangladesh. The law and order situation and developments there are the responsibility of the government of Bangladesh. To project a narrative suggesting otherwise is completely false, and we reject it," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said last month.

People gather at the funeral of Moni Chakraborty, a 40-year-old Hindu businessman, who was murdered by unidentified attackers, in Narsingdi, Bangladesh on Tuesday. PTI

Another Hindu businessman killed

DHAKA, PTI: A 40-year-old Hindu man, owner of a grocery shop, has been murdered after unidentified attackers struck him with a sharp weapon in Bangladesh's Narsingdi city, according to a local media report.

The incident took place on Monday night, hours after a Hindu businessman, who was also the acting editor of a newspaper, was fatally shot in the head by unidentified men in Jessore district of Bangladesh.

Moni Chakraborty was attacked and killed at Charsindhur Bazar in Palash Upazila around 11 pm on Monday, bdnews24 news portal reported.

Palash Police Station chief (OC) Shahed Al Mamun said Moni was the son of Madan Thakur of Sadharchar Union in Shibpur Upazila.

Moni had been running a grocery shop at Charsindhur Bazar for a long time. He is the third Hindu businessman to be killed in recent weeks. Police and local residents said Moni was returning home after closing his shop on Monday night when unidentified attackers struck him with a sharp, locally-made weapon. He collapsed on the spot, the report added.

Locals rushed him to the Palash Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead. Police reached the scene immediately after receiving the information and have launched an investigation to identify and arrest those responsible.

Student leader Hadi killing driven by political vendetta: Police

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, PTI

Student leader Sharif Osman Hadi was killed due to "political vengeance" at the behest of the Awami League, Bangladesh police said on Tuesday, as they pressed formal charges against 17 people in connection with the murder.

"Through public rallies and social media, Hadi had strongly criticised the past activities of the now-banned Awami League and the Chhatra League. His outspoken remarks angered leaders and activists of the Chhatra League and its affiliated groups," Md Shafiqul Islam, Additional Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Detective Branch, was quoted as saying by news portal tbsnews.net.

The Chhatra League is the student wing of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League.

"Considering the political identities of the accused and the victim's previous political statements, the investigation has revealed that Hadi was shot dead due to political vengeance," Islam said at a press briefing in Dhaka after submitting the chargesheet in the case to the court. The chargesheet has been filed against 17 people, including prime suspect Faisal Karim Masud, The Dhaka Tribune reported, quoting Islam.

Of the 17 accused, 12 have been arrested so far, while five remain at large, he said.

Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Hadi, 32, who rose to national prominence during the July–August 2024 mass protests that led to the fall of the Hasina-led government, was shot in the head on December 12 during an election campaign in Dhaka.

He was also a parliamentary candidate for the February 12 elections. Hadi was airlifted to Singapore for treatment but succumbed to his injuries on December 18.

Protesters clash with police at Iran's Grand Bazaar

Historic marketplace becomes flashpoint as economic collapse deepens

DUBAI, AP/PTI

Protesters angry over Iran's ailing economy conducted a sit-in on Tuesday at Tehran's Grand Bazaar, witnesses said, with security forces ultimately firing tear gas and dispersing demonstrators as the rest of the market shut down.

The protest at the Grand Bazaar, the beating heart for centuries of both Iran's economic and political life, represents the latest signal that the demonstrations are to continue as the country's rial currency fell to a record low on Tuesday. Already, violence surrounding the protests has killed at least 35 people, with authorities detaining more than 1,200 others, activists abroad say.

Meanwhile, the situation is likely to worsen as Iran's Central Bank drastically reduced the subsidised exchange rates for dollars it offers to importers and producers in the country. That likely will see merchants pass on price hikes in the coming days for goods directly onto consumers, whose life savings have dwindled over the years of international sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic.

Iran's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian, while ordering a government investigation into one incident involving the protests, otherwise signalled Tuesday that the crisis may be rapidly moving beyond the control of officials.

"We should not expect the government to handle all of this alone," Pezeshkian said in a televised speech. "The government simply does not have that capacity."

In the Grand Bazaar, a labyrinth-like warren of covered passages and alleyways, demonstrators sat down in one passage in front of security forces as other shops nearby shut down on Tuesday, online videos showed, and witnesses said. Other demonstrations similarly have seen people sit down in front of police after a photo circulated earlier of a man seen sitting alone in front of security forces.

Iranian security forces fire tear gas to disperse protesters in Tehran's Grand Bazaar area on Tuesday. AFP

Europe pushes back on Trump's Greenland dream

BERLIN, AP/PTI

Several European leaders pushed back Tuesday on US President Donald Trump's comments seeking an American takeover of Greenland.

The leaders issued a statement reaffirming that the strategic, mineral-rich Arctic island "belongs to its people."

The leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom joined Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in defending Greenland's sovereignty in the wake of Trump's comments about Greenland, which is a self-governing territory of the kingdom of Denmark and thus part of the NATO military alliance. "Greenland belongs to its people," the statement said. "It is for Denmark and Greenland, and them only, to decide on matters concerning Denmark and Greenland."

Stephen Miller, the White House deputy chief of staff, said on Monday that Greenland should be part of the United States in spite of a warning by Frederiksen that a US takeover of Greenland would amount to the end of NATO.

"The president has been clear for months now that the United States should be the nation that has Greenland as part of our overall security apparatus," Miller said during an interview with CNN Monday afternoon.

His comments came after the Danish leader, together with Greenland's prime minister and other European leaders, firmly rejected Trump's renewed call for the strategic, mineral-rich Arctic island to come under US control in the aftermath of the weekend US military operation in Venezuela.

Trump has argued the US needs to control Greenland to ensure the security of the NATO territory in the face of rising threats from China and Russia in the Arctic.

"It's so strategic right now," he told reporters Sunday. "Greenland is covered with Russian and Chinese ships all over the place," Trump said.

New clashes erupt between Syrian forces and Kurdish fighters

DAMASCUS, AFP: Clashes between government personnel and Kurdish-led forces in the north Syrian city of Aleppo killed at least seven people on Tuesday, mostly civilians, with both sides trading blame over who started the fighting.

The implementation of a March deal to merge the Kurds' semi-autonomous administration and military into Syria's new Islamist government has stalled, and tensions occasionally erupt into clashes, particularly in Aleppo, which has two Kurdish-majority neighbourhoods.

On Tuesday, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said in a statement that groups affiliated with the government "targeted the Sheikh Maqsud neighbourhood with a reconnaissance drone", resulting in "the death of one resident".

It later said the toll had risen to three civilians including two women in "indiscriminate artillery and missile shelling carried out by factions of the Damascus government" on the Sheikh Maqsud and Ashrafiyeh districts. "The shelling is still ongoing, with the use of drones," the SDF statement said.

Colombian military must resist US invasion: Minister

BOGOTA, REUTERS: Colombia's foreign minister on Tuesday said the country's military must defend the country's territory and sovereignty in the event of a hypothetical US invasion.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday threatened Colombia with military action similar to the one carried out in neighboring Venezuela that ended with the capture of President Nicolas Maduro.

"If such aggression were to occur, the military must defend the national territory and the country's sovereignty," Foreign Minister Rosa Villavicencio said at a press conference, adding that, under international law, states have the right to legitimate self-defence.

Trump suggests extended US involvement in Venezuela

NYT NEWS SERVICE

President Donald Trump suggested that the United States would be involved in Venezuela for the foreseeable future, telling NBC News on Monday that the country was not ready to hold elections and naming some of his top aides to oversee the next steps.

Hours after Venezuela's ousted president, Nicolás Maduro, was arraigned in New York City and a new leader in Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, was sworn in, Trump said he believed Venezuela's government was "cooperating" with the United States, but that there was "no way" elections could be held within the next month. "No, it's going to take a period of time," Trump told NBC News. "We have to nurse the country back to health."

Delcy Rodríguez, previously Maduro's vice president, was sworn in Monday as Venezuela's interim leader. She has offered to work on a "cooperative agenda" with the United States but also condemned what she described as its "illegitimate military aggression."

Vice President Delcy Rodriguez (left) is being sworn-in as Venezuela's interim president in Caracas on Monday. REUTERS

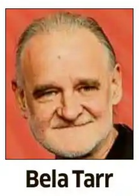
Trump has so far backed Rodríguez over María Corina Machado, the leader of Venezuela's opposition, who he says lacks enough domestic support to govern. But in an interview with Fox News on Monday night, Machado said the opposition would win over 90% of the vote in free and fair elections.

In the interview, Machado praised Trump but also said that Rodríguez was the "architect" of the Maduro government's repression and cannot be trusted.

Trump told NBC News that he has formed a team to oversee the next steps in Venezuela, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and the White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller. He said Vice President JD Vance would also play a role.

Hungarian film director Bela Tarr dies at 70

BUDAPEST, AP/PTI: The celebrated Hungarian filmmaker Bela Tarr, director of such works as "Satantango" and "The Turin Horse" and the recipient of numerous awards for his long and often darkly comic films, has died at 70.



Bela Tarr

During a career spanning decades, Tarr wrote and directed nine feature films, starting with his debut, "Family Nest," in 1979 and ending in 2011 with "The Turin Horse," which won the Silver Bear Jury Grand Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival that year.

Tarr frequently collaborated with Hungarian author Laszlo Krasznahorkai, who last year won the Nobel Prize in literature. Tarr's films, some of which were adaptations of Krasznahorkai's novels ("Satantango" and "Werckmeister Harmonies"), have been awarded prizes at festivals around Europe and Asia, and he received honorary professorships at universities in China.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Hungarian Filmmakers' Association confirmed Tarr's death, writing that "with deep sorrow we announce that, after a long and serious illness, film director Bela Tarr passed away early this morning."

Tarr was born in 1955 in the southern Hungarian city of Pecs, but lived most of his life in the capital, Budapest. He completed his first feature film, "Family Nest," when he was only 23. That film won the Grand Prize at the Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival that year.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

An aerial view shows high-rise buildings shrouded in dense fog in Islamabad on Tuesday. AFP

Snow wreaks havoc in Europe, causing accidents and chaos

▸ Snow, ice and freezing temperatures hit parts of Europe on Tuesday, causing treacherous traffic conditions that left at least five people dead in France and forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights from one of the continent's busiest airports, AP/PTI reports from The Hague.

Authorities in the Les Landes region of southwestern France reported three dead in accidents, and at least two more people were reportedly killed in the Ile-de-France region around Paris, where authorities ordered trucks off the road as snowfall caused huge traffic jams on Monday. Paris awoke Tuesday to a blanket of snow on its famous rooftops and sites, and children whose schools couldn't hold classes delighted in an unexpected day off. Air travelers were less happy, as heavy snowfall forced the closure of six airports in the north and west of France. As snow fell across the Netherlands, Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport reported that some 400 flights were grounded as crews worked to clear runways and de-ice planes waiting to depart.

Flash floods in Indonesia kill 16

▸ Flash floods triggered by torrential rain killed at least 16 people in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province on Tuesday, AP/PTI reports from Manado (Indonesia).

Days of monsoon rain burst riverbanks early Monday, triggering fast-moving torrents of water mixed with mud, rocks and debris that swept away people and submerged villages in Siau Tagulandang Biaro District, said a spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Agency.Emergency rescue personnel supported by police and the military deployed to four devastated villages on Siau, a tiny island about 130 km off the northern tip of Sulawesi, Indonesia's fourth-largest island. In some places, access was hampered by damaged roads and disrupted communications.

Couples line up for photos after the group wedding ceremony at the annual Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival in China on Tuesday. REUTERS

Global rollout of Meta glass delayed

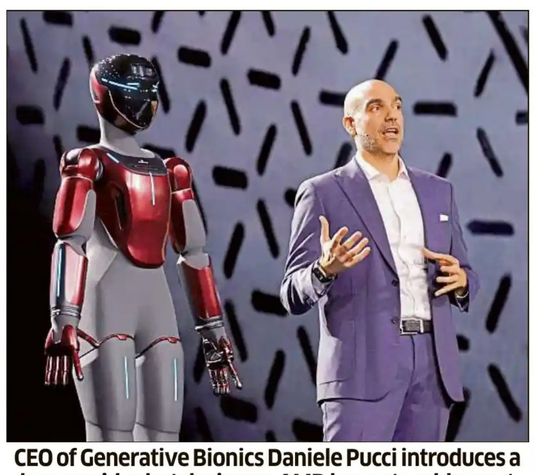
▸ Meta said on Tuesday it has decided to pause international expansion of its Ray-Ban Display glasses due to short supply and strong demand in the United States, Reuters reports.

The Facebook-parent had planed to roll out its augmented reality smart glasses Meta Ray-Ban Display in the UK, France, Italy and Canada starting early this year after tasting success with earlier versions. Meta said it would prioritise fulfilling US orders while it re-evaluates its approach to international availability, citing extremely limited inventory for what it described as a "first-of-its-kind product". "Since launching last fall, we've seen an overwhelming amount of interest, and as a result, product waitlists now extend well into 2026," the company said in a blog post. The Ray-Ban Meta glasses, developed with Essilor-Luxottica's Ray-Ban, let wearers take photos, stream content and talk to an AI assistant.

Israel set to start new settlement

▸ Israel has cleared the final hurdle before starting construction on a controversial settlement project near Jerusalem that will effectively cut the West Bank into two, according to a government tender, AP/PTI reports from Jerusalem.

The tender, seeking bids from developers, would clear the way to begin construction of the E1 project. The anti-settlement monitoring group Peace Now first reported the tender. Yoni Mizrahi, who runs the group's settlement watch division, said construction could begin within the month.



CEO of Generative Bionics Daniele Pucci introduces a humanoid robot during an AMD keynote address at the CES 2026, an annual consumer electronics trade show, in Las Vegas,on Monday. REUTERS

AI tightens entry-level funnel in consulting

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Consulting companies are witnessing a major shift in terms of employment, as AI is increasingly automating work, leading to job cuts. Recently, Bloomberg reported that consulting giant McKinsey & Co. has discussed cutting thousands of jobs, and this is part of the company's broader push to automate internal operations using AI.

In November last year, the firm had cut about 200 tech jobs as the company was using AI to automate some positions. HR experts said AI is having a real impact on the consulting workforce, especially in entry-level roles, which are getting the greatest pressure.

"As consulting firms disrupt India's approximately $10 billion advisory market, AI is increasingly automating work that was traditionally handled by junior staff, such as research, data crunching, benchmarking, first-draft analysis, and presentation development. As a result, companies are becoming more selective about who they hire, where they hire, and how many entry-level roles they need," Randstad Digital MD Milind Shah said.

For many firms, this has emerged as an immediate cost-optimisation lever, making junior roles the most exposed to change. Shah said AI is tightening the entry-level funnel in consulting and accelerating role evolution. "But it is also creating a sharper distinction between low-value, automatable work and high-impact human contribution. Most of this displacement appears temporary, with new roles emerging in AI strategy, implementation, governance, ethics, and hybrid consulting with AI oversight. Consulting firms and consultants that adapt early will remain relevant; those that rely on legacy role structures will face increasing pressure," he added.

As AI improves consistency and success rates across engagements, consulting firms are rethinking team deployment, engagement pricing, and how value is defined in an AI-enabled delivery model, TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship CEO Nipun Sharma said.

AI is reducing dependence on roles built around repetitive execution. This includes manual research, data collation, basic modelling, documentation, and standardised reporting. "These tasks are increasingly automated or heavily augmented. The real shift is that junior consulting roles will no longer be defined by effort alone. They will require stronger problem-solving, interpretation, and client engagement skills much earlier in a career," Sharma said, adding that there will be selective rationalisation, and not widespread layoffs, in the coming years.

GDP growth may ease to 6.9% in FY27: Ind-Ra

Current fiscal growth pegged at 7.4%

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's economic growth may decline to 6.9% in 2026-27 from the projected expansion of 7.4% in the current fiscal, India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) said on Tuesday.

Services sector is projected to remain the key driver of economic expansion with 8.1% growth in 2026-27, marginally lower than 8.3% in the current fiscal. Industry sector growth is estimated to ease from 7.1% in the current fiscal, to 6.2% in 2026-27, and agriculture sector growth is likely to decline from 3.6% in 2025-26, to 3.1% in 2026-27.

Addressing reporters, Ind-Ra Chief Economist Devendra Kumar Pant said GST rate rationalisation, income tax rate cut, trade deals with Oman, New Zealand and the UK and other reforms would shield the economy from global turbulence.

According to Pant, major headwinds include the El Niño pattern from mid-2026; weak currency due to weak capital flows; sluggish global trade growth; strong growth in FY26 (base effect); slower growth of net production taxes due to GST rationalisation and AI.

The headline retail inflation is likely to increase to 3.8% in 2026-27, from the estimated 2.1% in the current fiscal. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation is projected to increase to 2.3% in 2026-27, from 0.3% in 2025-26.

Retail and wholesale inflation averaged 1.8% and negative 0.1%, respectively, during the first eight months of the current fiscal.

One of the key reasons for the low retail and wholesale inflation in FY26 has been the deflation in food products both in CPI and WPI. The GST rationalisation in September 2025 made a structural change in prices, and inflation is expected to remain within the RBI's target in FY27. Inflation in H2FY27 will have an unfavourable base effect.

Stable agriculture growth and low inflation are likely to keep the rural real wage rate of agriculture in positive territory, supporting consumption growth in FY27. Low inflation should also maintain real minimum urban wages growth positive, and real wages in non-financial private corporates are likely to rise from the present level, he said.

Services sector growth dips to 11-month low in December

Business sentiment slips to lowest in close to 3.5 years

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

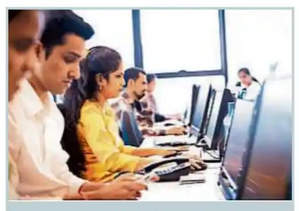
India's services sector growth dipped to an 11-month low in December and business sentiment fell for the third straight month to its lowest level in close to three-and-a-half years, dragged by sluggish demand, as per an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Tuesday.

India's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services fell to 58 in December, from 59.8 recorded in the previous month. This marked the slowest pace of expansion in India's dominant services sector since January 2025.

The PMI print above 50 indicates growth in the sector, while below 50 shows contraction. Despite the slowdown, the PMI level was still indicative of a substantial rise in output.

"While India's service sector continued to perform well in December, the retreat in several survey indicators as 2025 ended may suggest a moderation in growth heading into the new year," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Business sentiments retreated for the third consecutive month. The December business sentiment level was at its lowest in close to three-and-a-half years. The respective index was nearly 9 points below its long-run average. "Heightened market uncertainty and concerns around exchange rate movements dampened optimism," S&P Global said in its monthly report, which is based on a survey conducted among around 400 firms operating in the services sector.



SLOW START

- India's PMI for services fall to **58** in December, from **59.8** in November
- Heightened market uncertainty and concerns around exchange rate movements dampen optimism
- Sluggish expansion has impacted employment
- Growth in new export orders in December higher when compared with the previous month

Sluggish expansion has impacted employment. The recent trend of hiring growth that began in June 2022 came to an end in December. Service sector jobs fell only fractionally, however, as the vast majority of companies (96%) indicated no change since November.

One factor that prevented firms from recruiting additional staff was a lack of pressure on their operating capacities. Outstanding business volumes were broadly stable in December, as was generally the case in both October and November.

"Companies did express some anxiety about market uncertainty and exchange rate movements. While recent rupee weakness may have driven import costs higher, it likely made exports more competitive," De Lima said.

Services exports rose in December. Growth in new export orders in December was higher when compared with the previous month. Services exports growth was led by strong demands in Asia, North America, the Middle East and the UK.

"What bodes well for the outlook is the benign inflation environment. If services firms continue to see only mild increases in their expenses, they should be better positioned to compete and limit price hikes, thereby boosting sales and creating more jobs," De Lima remarked.

Sensex, Nifty record losses for second day

MUMBAI, PTI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, tracking intense selling pressure in market heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank amid geopolitical tensions and renewed concerns about potential US tariff hikes.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 376.28 points, or 0.44%, to settle at 85,063.34. During the day, it tanked 539.52 points, or 0.63%, to 84,900.10. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 71.60 points, or 0.27%, to end at 26,178.70.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Trent tumbled 8.62% after the Tata Group's retail firm's revenue growth in the December quarter failed to cheer investors.

RIL cracked 4.42%, while ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, InterGlobe Aviation, and HDFC Bank were also among the laggards. On the other hand, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Hindustan Unilever, and SBI were among the gainers.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SE(E)/Tr(Op)/C-N/EE(E)/AEE(E)-1&AE(E)-2/F-76-804/25-26/2595 Date:06.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid vide Tender No.KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3101 for **"Providing Additional Earthing pits and other allied works for grounding of 11kV Feeders & 66kV PT's, LA's, Power Transformer NCT at 66/11kV Attur Yelahanka MUSS, pertaining to Hebbal Operations Division, KPTCL, coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Operation North Circle, KPTCL. Bengaluru" on Total Turnkey, Two Part & Percentage Basis."** The Bid Documents will be available in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal **from 07.01.2026.** Any Additional information shall be obtained from the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Op) Circle-North, KPTCL, UAS Campus, Hebbala, Bengaluru-560 024

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
"Transport House" Central Offices, K.H Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560027. Tel No: 080-22221321
e.mail: trafficcom@ksrtc.org

No. KST/CO/TR/COM-1/1615/2025-26 **Date: 06.01.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION No: KSRTC/COM/02/2025-26

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation invites applications to select registered private contractor / licensee to run Employees Canteen located at KSRTC, Central office premises, KH Road, Bengaluru.

Details: 1) Period: 2 years, 2) License fee: Free, 3) EMD through DD: Rs.50,000/-, 4) Application Fee & GST: Rs.1,180/- (Rs.1,000/- Rs.180/-), 5) Area 316.4 Sq mts.

Application shall be obtained by submitting application fee through D.D in favor of CAO/FA, KSRTC, Bengaluru. Additional information can be obtained from this office during working hours.

1) Last Date and Time for obtaining application : **28-01-2026 17:00 hours.** **2)** Last Date and Time for Submitting application : **29-01-2026 17:00 hours. 3)** Tender opening Date and Time : **30-01-2026 15:00 hours**

Sd/-
Chief Traffic Manager (Commercial)
KSRTC, Central Offices, Bengaluru-27

DIPR/CP/4892/Zen/2025-26

GOVT. TOOL ROOM & TRAINING CENTRE
Rajajinagar Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 010.
Phone : 080-23157189, Fax : 080-23301683

No. GTTC/PROJ/CIVIL-ELE/WORKS/BD-154,155&156/2025-26 Date: 06.01.2026

e-Tender Notification

Tenders for the following works have been invited through e-Procurement by the Government Tool Room & Training Centre for the year 2025-26.

No.	Bid No.	Centre Name	Name of work
1	154	Raichur Rural	Establishment of New GTTC Centre at Raichur Rural, Raichur District
2	155	Kampli	Establishment of New GTTC Centre at Kampli in Ballari District
3	156	Indi	Establishment of New GTTC Centre at Indi in Vijayapura District

Tender documents are available on the e-Portal from **08.01.2026** and Pre-bid Meeting is scheduled on **27.01.2026.** The last date for submission of tender in the e-Portal is **09.02.2026 before 5.30 pm.** For more details, please visit the e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the helpline number : **+91 9240214000, +91 9240214001.**

Sd/-
Managing Director

Malaysia seeks collaboration in semiconductors, deep tech

Priyank Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, on Tuesday hosted a high-level delegation from Penang, Malaysia, to explore avenues for strategic collaboration across semiconductors, deep tech, space technologies, smart cities, skilling, and innovation-led industrial growth.

The delegation was led by Jagdeep Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister II, Penang, and included senior officials from the Penang State Government, representatives from the Penang Island City Council, and officials from the Consulate General of Malaysia, Chennai.

During the interaction, the delegation held discussions with IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge, and Manjula N, Secretary to Government, Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, along with other senior officials from the department.

The meeting focused on identifying areas of strategic collaboration between Karnataka and Penang, with the state's strengths in software, R&D, chip design, startups, deep tech, and talent development, and Penang's globally recognised leadership in electronics manufacturing, semiconductors, advanced materials, and industrial scale-up.

The Penang delegation expressed strong interest in progressing discussions towards a formal MoU to institutionalise collaboration. Both sides agreed to identify a focused set of priority areas—including semiconductors and chip design, skilling and talent exchange, deep tech, space applications, and smart cities — and take discussions forward through structured engagement.

Speaking at the meeting, Kharge said, "Karnataka's success has been built on strong, integrated ecosystems — education, skilling, startups, R&D. Penang has created an unparalleled hardware and semiconductor ecosystem."

Now, Wipro mandates 6 hours in office

BENGALURU, DHNS: Starting this year, IT services firm Wipro has tightened its hybrid work policy and has mandated six hours of office presence for three days a week.

During the COVID period, employees of IT firms worked from home, and this continued for a couple of years. Later, companies slowly started calling back their employees to the office, but continued their hybrid work policy.

In May last year, Infosys made it mandatory for its employees to work from the office for 10 days a month. TCS has also made WFO compulsory for its employees for all five days.

Wipro has now mandated that employees should be in the office for six hours when they are working from the office.

CIEL HR MD and CEO Aditya Narayan Mishra said over the last two years, IT firms have moved in a calibrated manner, from optional office attendance to defined hybrid norms. What began as a few anchor days and limited hours has evolved into longer in-office presence on designated days.

Sugar output up 25% in first 2 months at 119 L tonnes

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's sugar mills have recorded a robust 25% growth in sugar production so far this season, at 119 lakh tonnes as of December 31, 2025. The mills across the country commenced crushing sugarcane for the current season (October 2025 to September 2026) from November onwards. During the same period, last year, the sugar production was 95 lakh tonnes.

Good weather conditions and availability of ample water across the growing states has resulted in higher sugarcane production this year. The mills have reported improvement in yield and increase in the recovery of sugar, said Deepak Ballani, Director General of Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA).

"There has been a substantial increase in sugar production this year and states like Maharashtra are showing a phenomenal increase this year. Till date, Maharashtra has produced around 49 lakh tonnes, compared to 30 lakh tonnes last year, a phenomenal growth of 62% over the same period last year. And there is an improvement in UP and Karnataka also," Ballani told *DH*.

Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have produced 36 lakh tonnes and 23 lakh tonnes of sugar, respectively, in the first two months of the current season. The area under sugarcane has increased marginally to 57.35 lakh hectares, as against 57.11 lakh hectares in the previous year.

The season is progressing well and the industry had anticipated a total sugar production of around 343.5 lakh tonnes in this season. After taking 34 lakh tonnes for ethanol diversion, approximately 309 lakh tonnes of production is projected in 2025-26 season, a growth of 4.5% over the same period last year. The production stood at 295 lakh tonnes during this period last year, he said.

During the 2024-25 sugar season, the country's sugar production stood at 261.24 lakh tonnes. This year, 504 sugar mills have commenced cane crushing as against 492 mills in the same period last year.

RIL shares tank 4%; market valuation erodes by Rs 94,389 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Shares of Reliance Industries ended over 4% down on Tuesday and were instrumental in dragging the benchmark equity indices lower.

The blue-chip stock edged lower by 4.42% to end at Rs 1,507.70 on the BSE. During the day, it dropped 5% to Rs 1,497.05.

At the NSE, the stock declined by 4.46% to settle at Rs 1,507.60. During the day, it tanked 5.18% to Rs 1,496.30.

The company's market valuation eroded by Rs 94,388.99 crore to Rs 20,40,290.90 crore in a single day.

"Stock-specific pressure added to the weakness, as Reliance Industries fell over 4%, its steepest intra-day decline in more than eight months," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Selling in the blue-chip stock dragged the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty lower.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 376.28 points or 0.44% to settle at 85,063.34. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 71.60 points or 0.27% to end at 26,178.70.

The company's stock hit its record high of Rs 1,611.20 in the previous trade. Last year, the stock jumped over 29%.

> "Reliance Industries' Jamangar refinery has not received any cargo of Russian oil at its refinery in the past three weeks approx. and is not expecting any Russian crude oil deliveries in January.
> - RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

Reliance Industries Ltd, the operator of the world's largest single site oil refining complex and till recently India's biggest buyer of Russian oil, on Tuesday said it has not received any Russian barrels in almost three weeks and none are expected in January.

On November 20, 2025, Reliance had said it has halted the use of Russian crude at its export-only refinery in Jamnagar, Gujarat, as the company moves to comply with the European Union sanctions.

"Reliance Industries' Jamangar refinery has not received any cargo of Russian oil at its refinery in the past three weeks approx. and is not expecting any Russian crude oil deliveries in January," the company stated.

RBI proposes to cap banks' dividend payout at 75% of PAT

MUMBAI, PTI: The RBI on Tuesday proposed norms for dividends by banks by capping the payout to shareholders at 75% of their net profit.

The Reserve Bank of India defines 'dividend' as an amount payable on equity shares and includes interim dividend, but excludes dividend on Perpetual Non-Cumulative Preference Shares (PNCPS).

The RBI has issued draft Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Declaration of Dividend and Remittance of Profits) Directions, 2026, proposing a new methodology for computing the maximum eligible dividend payout.

The Board of Directors should consider long-term growth plans and capital position while considering a proposal for the declaration of dividends or remittance of profit.

A foreign bank operating in India in the branch mode should have positive profit after tax for the period for which the profits are to be remitted to the head office.

GEF India eyes Rs 12,000-crore revenues on sunflower oil push

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd (GEF India) expects to close the current financial year with a 9% growth in revenues at Rs 12,000 crore, as against Rs 11,000 crore last year, driven largely by strong performance of its sunflower oil business under the 'Freedom' brand, along with steady expansion into new markets and capacity scaling.

GEF's flagship product, Freedom Refined Sunflower Oil, leads the Indian market with a 25% share. India's annual sunflower oil demand is around 24-28 lakh tonnes, or about 2 lakh tonnes a month. Freedom sells roughly 45,000-50,000 tonnes monthly, produced across three facilities—two in Kakinada and one in Krishnapatnam—in Andhra Pradesh.

Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils Senior Vice-President (Sales & Marketing) P Chandra Shekhara Reddy said sunflower oil enjoys deeper penetration in Karnataka, Andhra, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. He attributed this to its light colour, balanced fat profile, and neutral aroma, which do not interfere with taste. "Two out of three homes in the South use sunflower oil, while in the North, its usage is largely limited to urban pockets," he said, adding that this has helped Freedom steadily emerge as the market leader.

Currently, Freedom Refined Sunflower Oil commands a 65% market share in Odisha, 60% in AP, 45% in Telangana, and 10% in Karnataka. The brand entered Tamil Nadu last year, and also records modest sales in Delhi-NCR, Kolkata, and parts of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. Reddy noted that India imports nearly two-thirds of its edible oil needs, limiting export opportunities. "However, there is demand for our brand overseas, and we sell in markets such as Singapore, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka," he said.

GEF India refines over 3,450 tonnes of edible oil daily across its three facilities. The recent expansion of the Krishnapatnam facility has helped the company achieve a combined capacity for sunflower oil of over 2,000 tonnes per day across both locations, with further expansion under consideration.

Of vision board and imagined times: Athena's tryst with excellence on track

Despite delayed formal training, Bengaluru teen has made rapid progress

SHREYA SANJEEV
BENGALURU, DHNS

Athena Sanjoy writes her goals before she runs them. On a vision board of imagined times, Olympic sprinters and future podiums, the track athlete has learned that success comes for those willing to want it, work for it and stay with it.

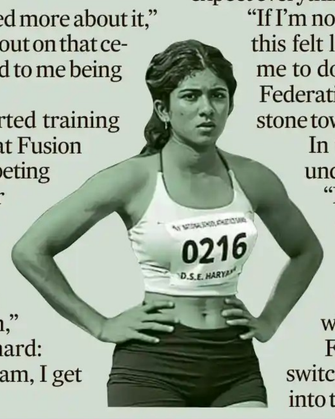
In 2025, belief became nine gold medals, winning multiple state and national titles, including CISCE national golds in the 400m flat and 400m hurdles.

Her speed began as play. "We used to play tag like it's life or death," she said of running through Kerala's lanes.

Soon, "winning everything" at school races wasn't enough, and Athena wanted more. "So, in the ninth grade, I started self-training... I realised I'm actually good at this," she remembers. Without formal guidance, pre-dawn alarms, cement sprints and stubborn repetition followed.

"I should have researched more about it," she laughs. "I used to go all out on that cement path, which slowly led to me being injured."

Lessons learnt, she started training under Vikram B Aiyappa at Fusion Athletica, and started competing professionally, bagging her first gold in 400m at the state level in 2023 while in the 10th grade. Still, training remains the part she loves. "For me it's fun," she says, but the rest is hard: "If I don't make it by 5:30 am, I get punished."



By eight, she's back at school, trying to keep up with class while her body recovers.

If discipline taught Athena how to work, belief taught her how to aim. A vision board in her room tracks goals that once felt outlandish.

"Some of them were so unrealistic," she says. "I can't believe I wrote them. But then they happened."

The numbers back it up. In the 400m, she wrote 56 and ran 56. In the 200, stuck at 27, she wrote 24 "for funzies" and hit it. What began as imagination turned into proof: wanting something clearly can move the clock. But not everything she writes down comes true.

Belief and work collided in October, when a qualifying race for the India camp ended in heartbreak. Placed in the fastest heat, she ran 57.2 and thought she'd done enough — then saw the results: disqualified for brushing the white line. A rare double disqualification followed in the team relay. "This was something I'd manifested for so long... but I guess I can't expect everything to work.

"If I'm not fast enough, that's fine. But this felt like the universe didn't want me to do this." Next up is the Junior Federation meet in April, a stepping stone toward the Asian Youth Games.

In training, she can hit 55, but under pressure, execution slips. "I'm not running the race properly." Her coach's blunt advice: "Stop picking, just run."

Sport, Athena believes, rewards obsession. "It's about who wants it the most."

For her, that wanting never switches off, up until belief turns into time on the clock.

FACT FILE

Athena Sanjoy

ACHIEVEMENTS

- CISCE Nationals (2025): Represented Karnataka (Best Athlete – Girls Category)
- Gold: 400m, 400m Hurdles, 4×400 m Relay
- Silver: 200m
- CISCE Nationals (2024): Represented Karnataka
- Silver: 400m Hurdles, 4×400 m Relay
- Bronze: 400m

SGFI School Games Qualification:

- Qualified to represent Karnataka and CISCE board at the SGFI Nationals in November 2025 and finished top 5.

South Zone National Championship (2025): Represented Karnataka

- Gold: 400m, 4×400 m Girls Relay
- Represented Karnataka State Team at the Junior Nationals, Zonal Nationals, and Youth Nationals.

Karnataka State Athletics Meet (2025)

- Gold: 400m (State Champion)
- Silver: 300m

CISCE Karnataka Regional Meet

- 2025: Gold in 400m, 400m Hurdles, 200m (Individual Champion)

CRICKET VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Karnataka enter quarters

Agarwal slams ton, Prasidh bags fifer in 150-run defeat of Rajasthan

SIDNEY KIRAN
DH NEWS SERVICE

Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal scored a century to star in a thumping 150-run win over Rajasthan in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. DH FILE PHOTO

Defending champions Karnataka produced a polished performance to hammer struggling Rajasthan by 150 runs in their Elite Group A Vijay Hazare Trophy match to seal their quarterfinal ticket with a game to spare in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Skipper Mayank Agarwal led from the front with an exact century while his in-form opening partner Devdutt Padikkal missed out on reaching the landmark for the fifth time in the tournament by nine runs to power unbeaten Karnataka to a commanding 324/7 in 50 overs at the Gujarat College Cricket Ground.

Pacer Prasidh Krishna then warmed up for the upcoming New Zealand ODI series starting January 11 by bagging 5/36 while spinners Shreesha Achar (2/35) and Shreyas Gopal (2/45) took two wickets apiece as Karnataka bowled out bottom dwellers Rajasthan for just 174 in 38 overs.

Karnataka remained firmly on top of the table with a perfect 24 points from 6 games and will take on Madhya Pradesh in the final group game on Thursday before returning home for the knockouts that kick off at BCCI's Centre of Excellence from January 12.

A major factor behind Karnataka's dominant run so far is the consistent strong starts their openers have provided. And Agarwal and Padikkal did it again, the former blasting a 107-ball 100 (9x4, 3x6) and the latter cracking an 82-ball 91 (12x4, 2x6) to forge an 184-run stand.

Middle order batters Karun Nair and R Smaran, in an attempt to go big from the onset, got out for low scores but a timely 25 from KL Rahul and 35 from Abhinav Manohar ensured Karnataka didn't make a mess of the solid foundation.

Given Rajasthan's abject show so far with just one win, the target was always going to be steep and they folded up without offering much of a fight.

Barring a 55 from Karan Lamba, none could stand up to the collective might of Karnataka's bowling. Wickets kept falling at regular intervals as Karnataka wrapped up a thumping win with plenty to spare.

Elite Group A brief scores: Karnataka: 324/7 in 50 overs (Mayank Agarwal 100, Devdutt Padikkal 91, KL Rahul 25, Abhinav Manohar 35; Kukna Ajay Singh 2-66, Manav Suthar 2-51) bt Rajasthan: 174 all out in 38 overs (Deepak Hooda 29, Karan Lamba 55, Kukna Ajay Singh 25; Prasidh Krishna 5-36, Shreesha Achar 2-35, Shreyas Gopal 2-45) by 150 runs. **PoM:** Mayank Agarwal.
Puducherry: 247 all out in 47.4 overs (Neyan Shyam Kangayan 25, Ajay Rohera 53, Jashwanth Shreeram 57, Aman Khan 27, Marimuthu Vikneshwaran 26; MD Nidheesh 4-41, Eden Apple Tom 2-33, Ankit Sharma 2-42) lt to Kerala: 252/2 in 29 overs (Baba Aparajith 63 n,o., Vishnu Vinod 162 n.o.) by 8 wkts. **PoM:** Vishnu Vinod.
Tamil Nadu: 259/6 in 50 overs (C Andre Siddarth 70, Baba Indrajith 48, Boopathi Kumar 27, Mohamed Ali 46, Karthick Manikandan 35 n.o.; Manisankar Murasingh 2-50) bt Tripura: 205 all out in 42,4 overs (Tejasvi Jaiswal 45, Rajat Dey 39, Manisankar Murasingh 43; Gurjapneet Singh 6-26, Varun Chakravarthy 2-23) by 54 runs. **PoM:** Gurjapneet Singh.
Madhya Pradesh: 277 all out in 48.4 overs (Yash Dubey 29, Shubham Sharma 34, Rajat Patidar 29, Akshat Raghuwanshi 64, Shivang Kumar 67; Sushant Mishra 2-55, Utkarsh Singh 3-30, Bal Krishna 2-35) lt to Jharkhand: 278/8 in 47.4 overs (Shikhar Mohan 103, Utkarsh Singh 56, Virat Singh 45; Kumar Kartikeya 3-63, Shivang Kumar 3-56) by 2 wkts. **PoM:** Utkarsh Singh.

Delhi seal knockouts berth

Rishabh Pant-led Delhi sealed their quarterfinals spot in the Vijay Hazare Trophy after registering a six-wicket win over Railways in their sixth Elite Group D match here in Alur on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

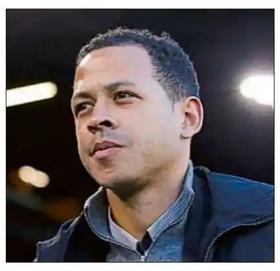
Delhi's bowling attack laid the foundation before the batting unit wrapped up a one-sided chase as the Group toppers extended their strong run with their fifth win in six games, making it to the knockouts for the first time in five years.

Navdeep Saini and Ayush Badoni picked up three wickets apiece to bowl Railways out for 179 in 40.4 overs.

Veteran Ishant Sharma (1/5) was outstanding with the new ball while Harshit Rana (1/42) provided support as Railways slipped to 19 for 2 in six overs.

Saini (3/30) and off-spinner Badoni (3/30) then ripped through the middle and lower order, reducing Railways to 99/6 in 23.2 overs.

Brief scores: Railways: 179 all out in 40.4 overs (Kush Marathe 51, Karn Sharma 29; Navdeep Saini 3-30; Ayush Badoni 3-30) lt to Delhi: 182/4 in 21.4 overs (Sarthak Ranjan 33, Priyansh Arya 80, Nitish Rana 38 n.o.; Raj Choudhary 3-46).



Liam Rosenior

Little-known Rosenior is Chelsea's new boss

LONDON, AFP: Chelsea confirmed on Tuesday that the little-known Liam Rosenior will be their new head coach on a six-year deal, replacing Enzo Maresca.

The 41-year-old said earlier on Tuesday during a farewell press conference at Ligue 1 club Strasbourg that he had "verbally agreed" on the move to Stamford Bridge.

The move was rubber-stamped shortly afterwards.

"I am extremely humbled and honoured to be appointed head coach of Chelsea Football Club," Rosenior said in a statement on Chelsea's website.

"This is a club with a unique spirit and a proud history of winning trophies.

"My job is to protect that identity and create a team that reflects these values in every game we play as we continue winning trophies."

Dragons go top of the table

CHENNAI, PTI: Tamil Nadu Dragons moved to the top of the men's Hockey India League (HIL) table with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over JSW Soorma Club here on Tuesday.

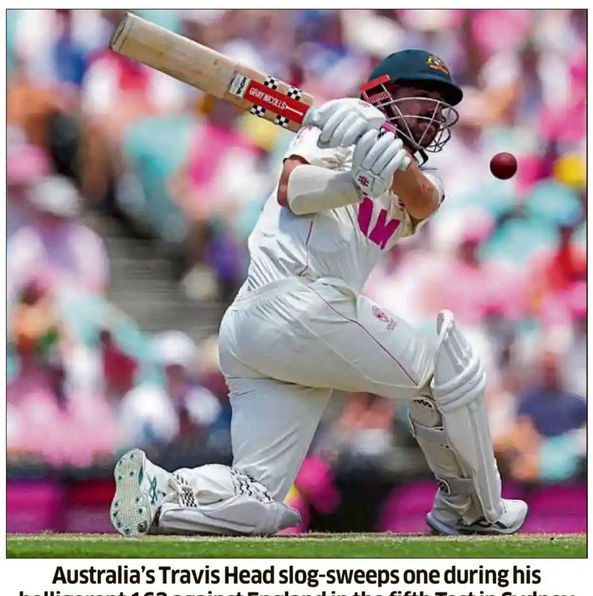
The Dragons were pushed to the limit in the closing stages as Soorma mounted a late fightback, but the hosts held firm to claim an important win.

Selvaraj Kanagaraj (28th), Uttam Singh (30th) and Blake Govers (47th) all found the net for the Dragons.

Australians in cruise control

Head, Smith smash hundreds as hosts take a sizeable 134-run lead

SYDNEY, AFP



Australia's Travis Head slog-sweeps one during his belligerent 163 against England in the fifth Test in Sydney on Tuesday. REUTERS

Run-machine Travis Head hit a swashbuckling 163 and Steve Smith a composed unbeaten 129 as Australia built a 134-run lead over England to seize control on day three of the fifth and final Ashes Test on Tuesday.

It was destructive opener Head's third ton of the series, to go with the phenomenal match-winning 123 he made in Perth and 170 at Adelaide.

Smith was equally impressive, with his first hundred of the series driving the hosts to 518-7 by stumps at a packed Sydney Cricket Ground in reply to England's 384.

Beau Webster was alongside him on 42 at the close.

Australia lead the series 3-1 and have already retained the Ashes, with England desperate for another morale-boosting win after victory at the previous Test in Melbourne.

"Nice batting wicket out there. Nice to start my innings on the back of a great innings from Travis Head," Smith told Fox Sports.

"When you're out there with him they forget about you and I was able to get into my work. Worked out well today."

Head brought up three figures off just 105 balls and seemed destined to score 200.

But he came undone in the third over after lunch by the part-time spin of Jacob Bethell, who was bowling for the first time in the series.

In his second over, Bethell trapped the 32-year-old lbw attempting a sweep shot to end a magnificent knock.

Skipper Smith treated Bethell with contempt, launching him for a big six on his way to a 37th Test hundred.

It was Smith's 13th Ashes century to move past England legend Jack Hobbs. Only Donald Bradman with 19 has more.

Usman Khawaja, in his 88th and last Test after announcing his retirement, fell lbw to Brydon Carse for 17 while Alex Carey made 16 before Josh Tongue enticed an edge.

Nightwatchman Michael Neser made 24 and Cameron Green 37.

Head resumed on 91 and Neser on one after Jake Weatherald (21) and Marnus Labuschagne (48) were out on Monday.

Head clattered an early midwicket boundary off Ben Stokes and reached three figures with his 17th four, crunched through the covers from Tongue, windmilling his bat in celebration.

It was his 12th century and first in Sydney to cement his reputation as one of the game's most versatile batsmen.

Head only moved to the top of the order in the second innings of the first Test in Perth due to Khawaja's back injury, but he has made the position his own.

With his hundred secure, he banged three straight fours off Matthew Potts then had a massive letoff on 121 when he pulled Carse and Will Jacks dropped a sitter near the ropes.

Brief scores: England: 384 vs Australia (O/n: 166/2): 518/7 in 124 overs (Travis Head 163, Marnus Labuschagne 48, Steven Smith 129 n.o.; Cameron Green 37, Beau Webster 42 n.o.; Brydon Carse 3-108, Ben Stokes 2-87).

Anahat soars into final

NEW DELHI, PTI: Top-seeded Indian Anahat Singh **(in pic)** registered a fine win over Egypt's Malika El Karaksy in the semifinals to storm into her maiden women's under-19 final at the prestigious British Junior Open squash here.

The 17-year-old, winner of 12 PSA Tour titles, secured a 11-8, 11-7, 11-9 win over Malika in just 28 minutes at the University of Birmingham.

Anahat will meet European junior champion and second seed Lauren Baltayan of France in the summit clash.

This is Anahat's ninth British Junior Open final across age-groups, as she aims to become only the second Indian to win the U-19 title after Joshna Chinappa in 2005.

Anahat, who beat Malika in the BJO U-17 final and the World Junior Championships quarterfinals last year, kept attacking the front corners and converted those opportunities into winners to close out the contest in straight games in what is the 100th anniversary edition of the tournament. Meanwhile, Aryaveer Dewan, the second seed in the boys' U-17 category, went down in the semifinals to Egypt's Philopater Saleh (3/4) 9-11, 5-11, 7-11.

K'taka men in quarterfinals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aravind Arumugham and Pratyanshu Tomar starred for Karnataka during their 100-79 victory over Rajasthan at the 75th Senior National Basketball Championship in Chennai on Tuesday.

In the women's section, Karnataka eased past Chhattisgarh 103-50 and their next match against Delhi will decide their fate.

Results: Men: Group A: Karnataka: 100 (Aravind Arumugham 27, Pratyanshu Tomar 22, Shashank Rai 15, Aaron Montero 12) bt Rajasthan: 79 (Ashish Trivedi 25, Akshit Hooda 22).
Women: Group A: Karnataka: 103 (Mahek Sharma 22, Bhandhavya HM 16, Sanjana Ramesh 13, Shruti Aravind 12) bt Chhattisgarh: 50 (Gulbhasha Ali 9).

Ayush stuns Olympic bronze winner Lee

KUALA LUMPUR, PTI: India's Ayush Shetty stunned 2024 Paris Olympics bronze medallist Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in straight games while Lakshya Sen also made a fine start to advance to the men's singles round of 16 at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Youngster Shetty, who showed promise by winning the US Open Super 300, notched a 21-12, 21-17 upset win in the round-of-32 match that lasted just 39 minutes.

Shetty runs into top seed Shi Yu Qi of China in the round of 16.

Jia is a former All England champion, now ranked world No. 144.

He is playing his first tournament since the China Masters in September last.

He had suffered an injury.

The 24-year-old Sen, meanwhile, notched a hard-fought win over Jia Heng Jason Teh of Singapore.

Sen, who won the Australian Open and also registered a final finish at Hong Kong last season, took 70 minutes to get past world No. 21 Teh 21-16, 15-21, 21-14 in a thrilling opener.

ICC-BCB online meeting delayed

NEW DELHI, PTI: A planned online meeting between the ICC and the Bangladesh Cricket Board to discuss the shifting of the country's T20 World Cup games from India to Sri Lanka, could not take place on Tuesday.

The BCCI recently asked IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders to release Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman **(in pic)** from its squad due to "developments all around" in a vague reference to attacks on Hindus in the neighbouring country.

BCB then said on Monday that it does not feel secure in sending the team to India for next month's T20 World Cup due to the deteriorating diplomatic relations.

According to BCB sources, their president Aminul Islam Bulbul wants a written reply to an e-mail BCB has sent to ICC on their security apprehensions after BCCI decided to oust Mustafizur by instructing KKR.

Compensation

Mustafizur is unlikely to receive any financial compensation after being released, despite having no role in the circumstances that led to the termination of his contract.

Mustafizur was bought by KKR for Rs 9.20 crore at the IPL auction.

Lovlina survives a stern test

GREATER NOIDA, PTI: Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain **(in pic)** survived a stern test to edge past Saweety Boora via a split decision in the 75kg pre-quarterfinals of the National Boxing Championships here on Tuesday.

Competing in her first tournament since her second-round exit at the World Championships in September last, Lovlina was put under pressure as Saweety launched relentless attacks from the outset.

The Haryana boxer pressed forward, landing sharp and accurate punches that forced Lovlina into repeated clinches to stem the momentum.

As the bout progressed, Lovlina gradually found her rhythm, though the contest remained scrappy, with frequent holding and tumbles overshadowing clean exchanges. The closely fought contest was eventually ruled in Lovlina's favour.

"I have returned after a long break, so yes, I expected today's bout to be tough.

"My strategy was to stay calm and assess in the first round, then bring in the aggression, and that worked," Lovlina said after the bout.

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Jesper de Jong

No Griekspoor, de Zandschulp for Dutch for India Davis Cup tie

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Netherlands have left out their top-ranked singles players Tallon Griekspoor and Botic van de Zandschulp in their four-member squad for the Davis Cup Qualifiers tie against India in Bengaluru on February 7-8.

Griekspoor, currently the Dutch No.1 and ranked 25 in the world in singles, and former world No.22 Van de Zandschulp, who is now placed 75th, were notable omissions from the team named by the Royal Dutch Lawn Tennis Association.

The Dutch challenge will instead be led by Jesper de Jong, ranked 71 in singles, along with Guy den Ouden, who is placed 158th.

The doubles challenge will be spearheaded by David Pel, the world No.27 in doubles ATP ranking chart, and Sander Arends, ranked 35.

The Netherlands are hosting an ATP 500 event in Rotterdam around the same time and it might have impacted their decision-making in announcing the team.

TENNIS BENGALURU OPEN

Dhakshineswar impresses

Indian stuns Croat Ajdukovic; Karan, Aryan make early exit

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Wildcard entrant Dhakshineswar Suresh was a treat to watch with his explosive game as he sailed into the second round with a straight-set victory over higher-ranked Croatian Duje Ajdukovic 6-4, 6-4 at the Bengaluru Open on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, two other Indians in action on the day, Karan Singh and Aryan Shah, made first-round exit against higher-ranked rivals, taking the list of Indian casualties to three out of six at the KSLTA's SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

World No. 466, Karan, lost to burly Croat Borna Gojo (No.293) who made short work of his opponent with a 6-2, 6-4 win. No. 398 Aryan played below his own set high standards to fall to Kazakh No. 277 Beibit Zhukayev 6-1, 6-2.

Ace show

However, following the two lopsided home defeats on the centre court, world No. 521 Dhakshineswar -- who made appearance at the venue during the World Tennis League -- came as a breath of fresh air much like teenager Manas Dhamne the opening day as the 6'5" Indian capitalised on a shaky opening service game of Ajdukovic (No. 329) for an early break.

The 25-year-old wildcard -- a student of Wake Forest University in US collegiate -- then showcased the hours of practice on his service game. His first serves had pinpoint accuracy on most occasions, and a few times that missed, he was equally aggressive with second serves while notching up a remarkable 20 aces over the two sets, including a kick serve that left Ajdukovic flabbergasted.

While the service game was refreshing to watch for an Indian player in the singles circuit, the confidence in Dhakshineswar's game was telling as his 24-year-old Croat rival tried testing the lanky Indian with an array of returns while mixing the pace and the Madurai-born had answer to all of it.

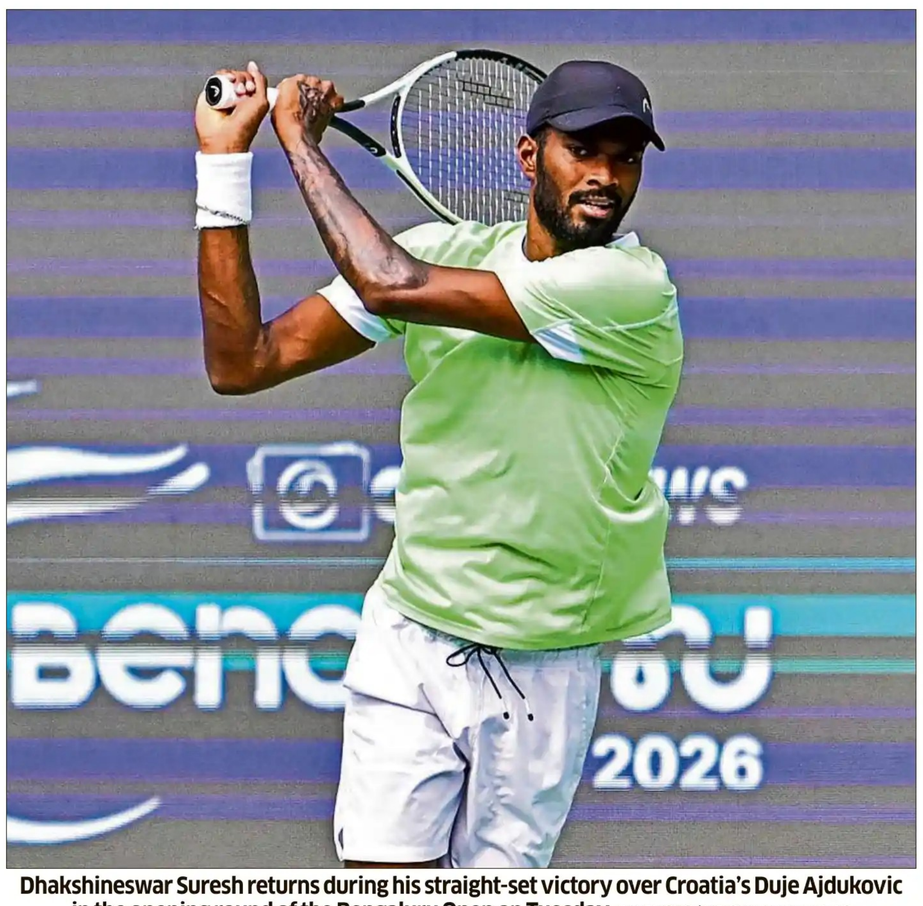
What further stood him apart was his anticipation of his opponent's movement and returns. There was no rush in his game either as Dhakshineswar patiently held on to his serves throughout the first set in a quality display of tennis to take the first set 6-4 against a former ATP No. 105.

There still remained a lingering question if the Indian will be as effective if Ajdukovic managed to push him in the second set. That moment arrived soon in the fourth game when the European rival took a 30-0 lead off Dhakshineswar's serve. He responded with his forte to take the game without further blip.

It was quite clear by now that Dhakshineswar got under his rival's skin as he broke Adjukovic in the next game while holding the baseline well as his opponent tried too many things and turned error prone.

Sensing his opportunity of a kill, the Indian showed some urgency for the first time as he started attacking his rival more and was comfortably gaining an upperhand while returning too. However, Adjukovic managed to win the mini battle of keeping his serve only to delay the inevitable as Dhakshineswar sealed the match on his serve.

Results: Day 2: Singles: Round 1 (Indians unless mentioned; prefix denotes seeding): Aryan Shah (Ind) lt to Beibit Zhukayev (Kaz) 1-6, 2-6; Borna Gojo (Cro) bt Karan Singh 6-2, 6-4; Niels Visker (NED) lt to Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-3, 2-6, 4-6; Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (Ger) bt 7-Max Houkes (NED) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; Alexis Gautier (Fra) bt Michael Geerts (Bel).



Dhakshineswar Suresh returns during his straight-set victory over Croatia's Duje Ajdukovic in the opening round of the Bengaluru Open on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR P S

ISL to finally kick off on February 14

Mandaviya claims all clubs are in for proposed league

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The much-delayed Indian Super League is finally ready to get going with the 2025-26 season scheduled to start on February 14 as Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya confirmed the development at a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday, stating that all 14 clubs have agreed to take part in India's top-tier football competition after months of uncertainty.

Mansukh Mandaviya

However, *DH* has learnt that a few of the clubs were forced to agree under political pressure in a 'take it or leave it' offer with an answer on the spot.

The announcement came after All India Football Federation (AIFF) held an emergency committee meeting to zero in on the dates and format for the league, along with other crucial financial matters to run the show.

As per the plan, AIFF has drawn up a budget of Rs 24.26 crore to conduct the league under a single-leg home-and-away format for the upcoming season. Under this model, the federation's financial exposure has been pegged at 40 per cent of the total cost, translating to a commitment of Rs 9.70 crore.

An alternative centralised model, likely in Goa, with an estimated budget of Rs 38 crore was suggested. AIFF will bear up to 40 per cent of the total cost in this case with a cap of Rs 25 crore.

One of the major clubs has shown cautious optimism saying "let's see how it goes" for the budget as the amount to run the league in the past has been on a much higher side while the budget estimates to run the truncated season was also showing a higher amount for one leg alone in a two centralised venue format.

Commercial partner

As far as finding the new commercial partner and broadcasters are concerned, AIFF has laid out a tight timeline with their onboarding planned by the end of this month while the tender or request for proposal (RFP) comes out by January 10. Notably, the previous tender found no takers late last year.

The budget breakup shared shows that production and transmission costs alone account for over 40 per cent of the total expenditure, followed by prize money at 24 per cent and governance-related administrative expenses at nearly 10 per cent.

IN BRIEF

Ex-India footballer no more

▸ Sadathulla Khan, a former international footballer who also represented Karnataka in Santosh Trophy, passed away on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

He was 75 is survived by a wife and a son and daughter.

Sadathulla represented India at the 1968 Mardeka Tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and also played in an exhibition match against Russia in Bengaluru. He represented both West Bengal and Karnataka at two different Santosh Trophies and was part of the winning Sporting Calcutta & East Bengal team at the 1977 Federation Cup.

CIS' Jr golf event on Jan 28

▸ The Canadian International School (CIS) is set to host the 11th Juniors Golf tournament on January 28 at the Prestige Golfshire in Devanahalli, reports DHNS.

Open to all student golfers aged 6 to 18, the format includes 18-hole stroke play for Categories A, B, C, and D, and 9-hole stroke play for Category E.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

5th Ashes: Australia vs England **(day 4, 4:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

1st T20I: Sri Lanka vs Pakistan **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

HOCKEY

HIL: Shrachi Bengal Tigers vs Soorma Hockey Club **(women, 2:30 pm)**; HIL GC vs Shrachi Bengal Tigers **(men, 5 pm)**, Hyderabad Toofans vs Ranchi **(men, 7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

United Cup: Poland vs Netherlands **(5 am)**, Quarterfinals **(7:30 am & 2:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Bengaluru Open: Day 3 **(11 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

BADMINTON

Malaysia Open: Round 1 **(6:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Ellyse Perry is the second-highest run-scorer in the Women's Premier League. PTI FILE PHOTO

RCB's headache: Replacing the irreplaceable Perry

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru have been left with a massive Ellyse Perry-sized void after their most influential asset in the Women's Premier League withdrew from the upcoming competition citing personal reasons.

The Challengers now have a tricky task in hand -- as challenging as getting a permission from the government to host a match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium at the moment.

They have named India all-rounder Sayali Satghare as a replacement but is it that simple?

Perry's value to RCB goes beyond just flipping between an anchor and aggressor in a muddled top-order -- bowling crucial overs when necessary and being the shoulder that skipper Smriti Mandhana falls back on when she needs leadership advice.

Perry has scored 972 runs in 25 WPL games at an average of 64.80 and a strike rate of 132.96. RCB's second-highest run-scorer (Mandhana: 646 runs) is 326 runs behind, which is considered a fantastic season for a batter.

While the runs are staggering, the 35-year-old has also picked up 14 wickets, including a 6/15, bowling at a decent economy of 8.20.

Add her exceptional fielding abilities and 347 international match experience and you have an irreplaceable cricketer who's presence had given RCB the much-needed flexibility.

So, how does one plug this massive gap?

In a video that RCB recently released on their social media platforms, it was evident that they came to know to about Perry's unavailability after retention and just prior to the auctions. "We're all now aware that Perry has officially communicated she's going to pull out of the WPL. How best can we replace her runs in the team," head coach Malolan Rangarajan was seen asking.

While replacing the second highest run-getter in the tournament might not be such an easy task, RCB have fine-tuned their squad with power and precision. However, the chances of success and failure are in equal measure because that's what Perry brings: reliability.

The majority of Perry's runs, however, will need to come from Mandhana, who will have carry the top-order.

RCB have failed to sign a proven Indian top-order batter to accompany Mandhana. They have picked Gautami Naik, who opened the batting with Mandhana in the Maharashtra Premier League, scoring 173 runs in six games.

But it remains a risky option with Naik still not exposed to the pressures of WPL.

Another addition is Dayalan Hemalatha, who has not yet done much to be a dependable option. In 22 games, the 31-year-old has managed just 264 runs, averaging 18.31.

And then the attention shifts to the three foreign batting recruits in Nadine de Klerk, Georgia Voll and Grace Harris, who will need to inject their experience and power into RCB's batting.

Voll will most likely open with Mandhana while Harris and de Klerk are set to occupy No. 4 and six positions, respectively.

RCB will hope the two overseas signings complement the explosive Richa Ghosh, who is expected to play a floater's role.

They have added solid bowling options in Lauren Bell, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy and Radha Yadav, giving them several powerplay and death options.

While Perry's overs might not be the biggest of worries, it will be interesting to see how the Everest of runs will be scaled.

The options to replace Perry are certainly there, but for now, they remain just options and not solutions.

Kashvi shines in Karnataka win

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a low scoring game, Kashvi Kandikuppa's 60 not out, along with OY Rohini Dechamma's unbeaten 30, propelled Karnataka to a comfortable nine-wicket win over Assam at the BCCI Under-15 Women's One-day Trophy in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Batting first, Karnataka bowlers Patil Nynisha Reddy (2/24) and Tanushree R (2/11) made things difficult for their opponents as Assam managed to put up a mere 99 runs for five in 35 overs.

Chasing an easy target, Kashvi hammered 11 fours in her 46-ball knock as Rohini's handy contribution took Karnataka over the line in 15.2 overs for the loss of a wicket.

Brief scores: Assam: 99/5 in 35 overs (Aradhya Dutta 30, Baibhabee Das 31; Patil Nynisha Reddy 2-24, Tanushree R 2-11) lt to Karnataka: 100/1 in 15.2 overs (OY Rohini Dechamma 30 n.o., Kashvi Kandikuppa 60 n.o.).

Zainul seven-for seals the deal for Super Cricket Club

BENGALURU, DHNS

Zainul Abideen picked up a sensational seven-for as Super Cricket Club thrashed UVCE College by nine wickets of the KSCA Group I, V Division league cum knockout tournament for the JB Mallaradhya Shield here.

Batting first, UVCE College crashed to 28 all out in 10.2 overs as Zainul returned with figures of 7/6. Siddharth Rajesh Nair (2/18) picked up two wickets to add to the carnage.

In reply, Super Cricket Club wrapped up the chase in just 3.2 overs.

In another fixture, Jadav Mahesh scored a hundred while team-mates Binod Kumar BK (2/25), Pradeep Tamrakar (2/36) and Emon Bhanj (2/25) shared six wickets between them as City Cricketers (2) beat Malleswaram Sports Club by 38 runs.

Brief scores: UVCE College: 28 all out in 10.2 overs (Zainul Abideen 7-6, Siddharth Rajesh Nair 2-18) lt to Super Cricket Club: 29/1 in 3.2 overs.

City Cricketers (2): 267/7 in 50 overs (Pushkar Singh 37, Jadav Mahesh 124, Diganth U 32; Rohan Ravi 2-51, Ranvir NC 2-51) bt Malleswaram Sports Club : 229 all out in 46.3 overs (Sai Rochan J 46, Vismai PM 52, Ranvir NC 32; Binod Kumar BK 2-25, Pradeep Tamrakar 2-36, Emon Bhanj 2-25).

Young Challenging Cricket Club, Chintamani: 123 all out in 32.5 overs (S Charan 28; Vijay Kumar 2-16, Pramoda HS 4-22) lt to Modern Cricketers: 125/8 in 37.3 overs (Srivatsa Ranganatha 2-23, Satish Y 4-22, S Charan 2-6).

Unique Cricket Club: 140 all out in 40.4 overs (Akshaj Kathuria 70; Sudharshan Padmanabha 2-28, Nidhish GA 3-12) lt to Central College Cricket Club: 144/7 in 34.3 overs (Shreyas DM 29, Ganesh 25, Drupada Y 34 n.o.; Niraj V 3-30).

Garfield Cricketers: 205 all out in 39 overs (Madhusudan TN 57; Sampath PK 5-43, Manoj AV 2-45, Poorna 3-40) bt ACE Cricketers: 164 all out in 40.1 overs (Abhilash R 29, Poorna 41; Praveen S 4-43, Madhusudan TN 2-21, Kiran B Mali 2-21).

Bangalore Dynamos Sports Club: 105 all out in 33.2 overs (Akhieera Allan W 41; Punith N 4-39) lt to Government RC College: 108/5 in 21.2 overs (Mohammed Amen 37 n.o.; Akhieera Allan W 2-10).

Prathibhe Talented Trust: 137 all out in 40 overs (Rajesh G 51, C Abilash 2-40; Haji Ibrahim 4-13, Saleem Ali 3-22) lt to Young Cricketers (1): 138/3 in 37 overs (Guru Murthy M 26 n.o., Syed Adil 54 n.o.).

Young Cricketers Association, Kolar: 265/9 in 43 overs (Harish Karthik R 29, Muzakkir Sharief 36, Pruthvi Raj R 55, Monish Karthik R 35, Narayanaswamy HC 52; Pratheesh Premdas 3-27, Lalatendu Paikray 2-50, Manjunath Yallappa 2-30) bt Oriental Cricket Club : 93 all out in 23.1 overs (Vishnu R 26 n.o., Hemanth PS 2-23, Manoj Kumar S 5-19, Akshay Kumar M 2-15).

Vivekananda Union Cricket Club: 119 all out in 26.5 overs (Prajwal J 25, Ranjan MS 3-28, Syed Zain 5-33) lt to Royal Cricket Club, Chintamani: 124/1 in 13 overs (Rahul AS 67 n.o.; Rane Karumbaiah 38 n.o.).

Pavandeep hits double unbeaten tons as Raichur bag innings honours

LOCAL CRICKET

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pavandeep R Bharadakane smashed two unbeaten centuries in each innings as Raichur Zone enjoyed the better of exchanges in their drawn match against Mangalore Zone in the KSCA Under-14 Inter-zonal tournament here.

Pavandeep brought up his first-innings score of 147 not out in 170 balls in Raichur's innings total of 245 all out in 63 overs. He followed it up with a 144-ball 118 not out in the team's second essay of 173/8 in 49 overs.

Mangalore, on the other hand, were bowled out for 149 in 44.5 overs in their first innings and were 57/1 in 24 overs in the second when the proceedings ended.

Raichur gained three points by virtue of first-innings lead while Mangalore had to be content with one point.

Brief scores: Raichur Zone: 245 all out in 63 overs (Tejas 48, Pavandeep R Bharadakane 147 n.o.; Pradyoth Rao Jadhav 4-44, Tanay S Bangera 3-51) and 173/8 in 49 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 118 n.o.; Vamshi Mogaveera 3-36, Pradyoth Rao Jadhav 2-46, Lakshya P Devadiga 2-26) drew with Mangalore Zone: 149 all out in 44.5 overs (Vruthan NA 73, Lakshya P Devadiga 27; Athmik Pujari 3-25, Prajwal Mallikarjun 2-46, Vijit Hiremath 3-6) and 57/1 in 24 overs (Vruthan NA 26 n.o.). **Raichur Zone: 3 points; Mangalore Zone: 1 point.**

President's XI: 175 all out in 56.5 overs (Rajveer Padam Mehta 28, Ryan Tomar 54, Ayaan Waheed Mohammad 25; Rahul Jena 5-23) and 200/6 in 60.1 overs (Prabhav Pydah 43, Aaryan Nagesh 94, Tanush Mishra 38 n.ol.; Rahul Jena 3-50, Jeet D 2-28) drew with Bangalore City XI: 287/9 in 90 overs (Advay Choudhary 60, Hannan Zaki Ahmad 129 n.o., Tejas Sudhindra Bhat 33; Aniket Chaturvedi 2-19, Aaryan Nagesh 2-34, M Neeraj 3-40). **Bangalore City XI: 3; President's XI: 1.**

Shivamogga Zone: 192 all out in 85.2 overs (Yuvaraj N 62, Shourya K 26, Utsav Gowda DS 26; Alok M Japannavar 2-33, Daivik Mugabast 4-32) drew with Dharwad Zone: 83 all out in 36.3 overs (Ajay A Lamani 46; Mohith BV 3-21, Swasthik S 3-18, Smaran Chiranjeevi 3-11) and 157/7 in 64 overs (Pranav Jadagoudar 44; Swasthik S 2-29). **Shivamogga Zone: 3; Dharwad Zone: 1.**

Tumkur Zone: 149 all out in 67 overs (Tarun BN 73; Samrat Aditya P 3-32, Chiranjeevi BG 3-14, Vyom Naidu 2-31) and 105 all out in 39.5 overs (Mohammed Yaseen 30, Tarun BN 26; Samrat Aditya P 3-16, Chiranjeevi BG 2-34, Vyom Naidu 4-31) drew with Vice President' s XI: 208 all out in 68.3 overs (Athreya Bhat 40, Vyom Naidu 70, Aadit Kaul 34; Ashith Sanjay Girish 4-57, Ayushman C Purushan 3-42, Giridhara M Pujar 2-28) and 44/4 in 7 overs. **President's XI: 3; Tumkur Zone: 1.**

Bangalore Zone: 177 all out in 69 overs (Aarav Srivastava 34, Akhieera Allan W 52; Swaroop H 6-50, Benaka R Gowda 2-67) and 230/7 in 68 overs (Akhieera Allan W 87 n.o., Krishav Karthik 57; Sashreek SA 5-44) drew with Mysore Zone: 211 all out in 55.4 overs (Sachin Raj S 74, Swaroop H 56, Likith CK 28; Bhavin Joe Francis 4-48, Amit SS 2-39). **Mysore Zone: 3; Bangalore Zone: 1.**

Combined City XI: 313/6 in 90 overs (Samarth Suresh 157, Gagan R Metre 56, Krishna 57) and 92/9 decl in 35.2 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 45 n.o.; Vishist PJ 2-23, Gaurav V 3-27, Meghan KJ 2-24) drew with Secretary's XI: 40 all out in 32.4 overs (Krishna 6-10, Arya Ayyappan 2-1) and 54/7 in 27 overs (Cheran Tej Raju C 29 n.o.; Arya Ayyappan 2-8, Mihir Sudheer Nayak 2-18). **Combined City XI: 3; Secretary's XI: 1.**

Mayur hat-trick steers MVFC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mayur Kshetragna netted a hat-trick as Mysore Vijayanagar FC eased to a comfortable 3-0 victory over Empire FC in the BDFA B Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Mayur opened the scoring as early as the sixth minute to give his side a 1-0 lead. He doubled his and MVFC's tally eight minutes later to add the advantage. In the second half, Mayur completed his hat-trick in additional time to hand his team a 3-0 victory.

In the other matches, FC Mangalore eased to a 3-0 victory over Young Blues Elite FC while KSP FC played out a 2-2 draw against Revive FC.

Results: Mysore Vijayanagar FC: 3 (Mayur Kshetragna 6th, 14th, 80th+4) bt Empire FC: 0; FC Mangalore: 3 (Muhammed Irfan 9th, Prathap E 57th, Ashwin Augustus 69th) bt Young Blues Elite FC: 0; KSP FC: 2 (ShashiKumar V 43rd, 45th) drew with Revive FC: 2 (Athul Jose Benny 18th, Godson Shaji 24th).

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com